This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY OF THE

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION

From her son George

Sil. Mo. 26. 1873.

Thy affect. friend
Thos. Pumphrey

MEMOIR

[illegible] HUMPHREY.

MEMOIR

OF

THOMAS PUMPHREY,

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS

SUPERINTENDENT OF ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

EDITED BY

JOHN FORD.

LONDON:
A. W. BENNETT, 5 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT
YORK:
THOMAS BRADY, 15 LOW OUSEGATE.
1864.

[redacted]
Feb. 12, 1935
LF 795
.A34 P8
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
MONROE C. GUTMAN LIBRARY

PREFACE.

In undertaking to arrange the materials for presenting a sketch of the life and official labours of the late Thomas Pumphrey, I deeply feel my incompetency to the task. Had it been required only to select and arrange an autobiography, the work would have been comparatively light; but few materials of this kind have been left by him. We shall have to depend chiefly upon his letters to his family and friends. These, in the absence of diary or journal, are perhaps the best illustrations of the life, character and labours of the departed. He had the pen of a ready writer. His letters will be found representatives of a mind early imbued with the

love of Christ, and in various ways devoted to His service.

Entrusted for twenty-seven years with the superintendence of the largest educational establishment of the Society of Friends in this country, more than two thousand four hundred of its youth, both sexes included, were more or less brought under his influence. His letters will, in some measure, indicate the nature and tendency of this influence.

York, 8th mo. 27, 1864.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Page.

Birth — Early Education — Ackworth School in 1812-15—Home Influences—Call to the Ministry of the Gospel—Letters from his Father on this subject—His Marriage—Letters—Decease of H. Brady—Recollections of his Mother—Religious Service in the West of England—Christian concern for the religious training of Children 1

CHAPTER II.

Letter to his Wife—Change of Business—Discouraging Stock-taking—Religious Visit to Ackworth School—Prospect of Superintendence in a Letter to A. P.—Engaged as Superintendent and enters on his Post—Sketch of Thomas Pumphrey by one of the Masters—Letters to his Wife—Letters to his Daughter—Religious visit to Norfolk and Lincoln—Letter to his Father—Christian Independence 44

CHAPTER III.

R. Pumphrey's failing health—Letter to his little girl on her breaking her arm—Religious Service in Dublin—R. Pumphrey's death—Letter from one of the Ackworth Masters relative to the decease of R. P.—Letters to his daughter at School—To

From her son George

5th Mo. 26. 1873.

Thy affect. Friend
Thos. Pumphrey

In no department of early instruction has greater advance been made at Ackworth than in that all important department—the knowledge of Holy Scripture. With the exception that the Monitors, twelve in number, were required to commit to memory a few texts from a little manual consisting of texts only, compiled by Henry Tuke, no repetition or learning of texts was heard of at Ackworth. There was no questioning on Scripture facts or teachings, and with the exception of occasional ministry in meeting, little oral instruction of any kind concerning christian doctrine, life or conduct. Far from commending this *laissez faire* system, there are nevertheless Ackworth school boys of that date, who can recall impressions, thoughts and feelings precious to the memory. The Scriptures were, in 1812 only read on First-day evenings, and then from John Kendall's abridgment. The Readings on other evenings were from T. Ellwood's Sacred History, T. Chalkley's Journal, J. Woolman's Journal and Sewell's History of Friends. In 1813, an agreeable innovation was made by

the public reading of a chapter from the New Testament, before leaving the breakfast table.

Thomas Pumphrey left Ackworth in 1815. In 1816, Joseph John Gurney attended the general meeting at Ackworth School, and on examining the children as to their knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, he found not a little ignorance among them. In a letter addressed to the Superintendent in the 9th month, 1816, Joseph John Gurney says, "I am of opinion that the minds of the boys are not properly cultivated on the subject of religion. They are remarkably sheltered from evil, but do not appear to me to be positively led to good." At his suggestion a Bible, formerly given to each child on leaving school, was furnished to each on entering. The scholars cordially accepted his proposals to undertake to study the Scriptures, preparatory to an examination by himself at the close of the year. The Superintendent and teachers warmly seconded his views. The children received, every one, a copy of the Bible. "Well thumbed were those copies at the year's end," says Joseph John Gurney, in

his autobiography. "The children took their Bibles to bed with them, read them by the early morning light, pored over them at leisure hours during the day, and especially on First-days. The teachers rendered them their best assistance; knowledge of the subject increased, and with it good; and when I visited them at the close of twelve months, the whole aspect of affairs was changed."*

Such then was the Ackworth School of 1815, when Thomas Pumphrey was a school boy—and such, after he left, was the foundation of these beneficial changes which prepared the School to become as distinguished for the extent of Scriptural knowledge, as it had been for the ignorance in which Joseph John Gurney found it. Nor is it irrelevant to the purpose of our task to show under what influences the future Superintendent was placed as a school boy, the recollections of which period, both of its privileges and its negations, were often instructive and useful, when, after the lapse of twenty years, he was called to preside over the Institution in which

* Life, Vol. I. p. 170.

he received some of the impressions of his early life.

On leaving Ackworth, he was for some time at Joel Lean's school, at Falmouth, where his literary attainments were carried beyond the range of the Ackworth education of that day. On leaving school he was employed in his father's business, that of a glover, then the staple trade of Worcester. Not less than to the memory of his beloved mother, was he indebted to the example and training, and all the happy influences of home, exercised by his father. Few men mingled more than Stanley Pumphrey did, with his fellow men in the business of commercial life, and but few have exemplified, as he did, especially in the commercial room, as well as in other business intercourse, that consistent Christian cheerfulness which was his marked characteristic. This adorning of piety was largely possessed by his son. Thomas Pumphrey's elder brother, Samuel, was also a bright example of early dedication of heart to Christ. Thus surrounded from his earliest years by the best of social and

domestic influences, he early manifested that they were blest to him. His life gave evidence of increasing love and devotedness to his Saviour, the fruit of the Holy Spirit's regenerating influence in his heart.

About the year 1822, being then nearly twenty-one years of age, his voice was first heard in our meetings for worship, as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His friends acknowledged his gift, and he was recorded as a minister of the Gospel, by the Monthly Meeting of Worcester, in the tenth month, 1826, being then in his 25th year.

The following are amongst the very few private memoranda left by Thomas Pumphrey. They instructively record the exercises of his mind when first apprehending himself called to the ministry.

Monthly Meeting at Alcester.
4th mo. 13, 1823.

During the whole of the Meeting my mind had been oppressed with the belief that it was my duty to express a little that had weightily dwelt with me, but very hard did I struggle against thus appearing a fool in the

eyes of many, and under a fear that it was a suggestion of Satan to bring dishonour on the precious truth; but I earnestly besought the Almighty to strengthen me.

The memorandum proceeds to state the substance of his prayer, which was, that in condescension to his weakness, the Lord would grant him a little help through the instrumentality of some of His servants then present. This request appeared to be granted, and the memorandum continues:

Having thus had my petition mercifully granted, in great fear I stood up with the words of the pious Joshua "Choose ye this day whom you will serve; as for me and my house we will serve the Lord," and expressed how strong the desire of my heart had been, that this might be the resolution of every individual present. I trust the sacrifice was accepted, for peace, great peace was my portion. Having thus publicly advocated thy cause, O Lord! enable me to maintain my rank in righteousness, lest I disgrace thy holy cause: and be pleased to prevent the great vivacity of my natural disposition from subverting the good within me.

4th mo. 17.—Enabled at Meeting this morning to open my mouth in public testimony; this is what the flesh recoils at, and would gladly be excused from, but obedience is the only way to peace.

6th mo. 10.—Came of age, this being my twenty-first birth-day. May I devote my strength to the praise of my heavenly Father, who has hitherto been with me and has been merciful towards me.

7th mo. 6.—Under a very awful sense of the solemnity of the duty, I felt constrained to bow the knee in public supplication for preservation and the blessing of the Divine presence, particularly on behalf of those who, with myself, were young in years, that they might be enabled to resist temptation. I found peace in the performance of this solemn engagement, in which I was not forward to enter, but in great brokenness of spirit sought renewed evidence of being called to perform it. Oh! that the whole burnt-offering may be surrendered.

7th mo. 20.—My mouth again opened in Meeting, "Let the sinner forsake his way," &c. How often these sacrifices may be called for I know not, but this I know that it is only as

I am obedient to what I believe to be required of me, that I can experience peace.

9th mo. 10.—This day out of my time: may my entrance into life on a more extended scale be in humble dependence on my Great Master, and may I be obedient to Him in all things—seek first the kingdom, and leave the rest in the hands of One who knows what is best for me.

Before commencing business in Worcester, it was necessary for Thomas Pumphrey to become a freeman of the city; but in taking up his freedom, a difficulty presented, which appeared to him almost insurmountable. The document which he had to sign contained an article requiring that "a lawful weapon for the defence of the city" should be kept: this he believed to be little more than nominal, but still he felt it would be inconsistent with his principles to subscribe to it, and he expected that in consequence he would be prevented from taking up his freedom; he made it a subject of earnest prayer, which was answered in a striking manner, for when the official on reading the

document, came to these words, he at once, and spontaneously said, "It is no use reading this to *you*, I will strike it out." This circumstance made a lasting impression on Thomas Pumphrey's mind.

Whilst it is Divine grace alone that can change the heart,—that can effect in us the condition indicated in the solemn words of our Saviour, "Ye must be born again," there are means placed within the reach of parents, greatly promotive of this all important work. There is a connexion between cause and effect, between effort and result, in this, as in all else that concerns the welfare of man. This is well exemplified in the watchful and prayerful care which Thomas Pumphrey's father exercised in regard to his children, and in the fruits which he was permitted to see. "Provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," might seem to have been his constant principle of action. The following letters were addressed by Stanley Pumphrey to his son, on his coming forward as a minister

of the Gospel in the Society of Friends. The loving father and the faithful and judicious church-elder are manifest throughout. Another, not less faithful and discriminating, is admirably adapted to the circumstances and temperament of Thomas Pumphrey, then just going out as a commercial traveller.

On his first coming forward in the ministry his father wrote as follows.

24th 7 mo. 1823.

I have often thought of thee, my dear Thomas, both before I left home and since I left, with feelings of near and tender sympathy, and with earnest desires for thy preservation on the right hand and on the left. O that thou mayst be favoured with stability—with holy stability—looking with a single eye to thy great Master and attentive to the monitions of his voice, maintaining an anxious and jealous care over thy own heart, and the suggestions of the enemy who assails us with baits suited to the prevailing dispositions of the mind, deceiving by insidious snares, where he cannot destroy by sinful temptations. "Quench not the Spirit,"

my dear son, and on the other hand be sure that all thy offerings are of the Lord's preparing, and remember that the pair of turtle doves or the two young pigeons, when called for at the Divine hand, are more acceptable to the Almighty than the sheep and the oxen, without this holy stamp upon them. I believe it is thy fervent desire, in all thy movements, to be directed aright, and I have no doubt as thy heart is preserved in humility and self-abasement, that right direction will be afforded to thee. Oh! how necessary it is that self should be excluded from our religious movements, that we should be as clean vessels ready for any service to which our Divine Master may see meet to appoint us; then indeed should we be honourable in his House, and useful to his people. That this may be thy portion, is what thy Father craves for thee above any temporal blessing. Though I have not spoken to thee, it has not been for want of feeling with and for thee—many a time when no eye has seen me, have I poured out my supplications with tears, for thee and dear Samuel, believing that your minds are sweetly imbued with impressions, which, if cherished, will, I doubt not, be blessed, not only to yourselves but to many more. I

have often been instructed by your remarks even in the warehouse, and have been pleased with the principles of strict integrity with which they have been fraught. Cultivate these principles; whilst they conduce to your peace they will tend even to your temporal advantage.

On his being recorded as a minister, his father wrote under date:

20th 10 mo. 1826.

It is under feelings of much parental affection and earnest solicitude for thy preservation in the path of Christian duty assigned thee, that I now address thee. Truly this is a memorable epoch in thy life—an epoch which not only furnishes the consoling anticipations of much happiness to thyself, but also opens to thy friends the prospect, that as thou art careful to abide humble and watchful, thou mayst become increasingly useful in the Church. Our adjourned Monthly Meeting was held on Fifth-day, when Richard Burlingham in a very weighty manner, informed the Meeting of the principal object of the adjournment, viz: to take into consideration the propriety of recommending thee as a Minister to the Meeting of

Ministers and Elders. While the subject was under consideration, a great solemnity covered the Meeting; many Friends expressed their full unity with the proposition, and as no dissenting opinion appeared, a minute was made accordingly. How does my heart yearn for thee, my dear Thomas, with desires that, having in so conspicuous a manner put thy hand to the plough, thou mayst be preserved from looking back. What an inestimable favour it is that at such a momentous era thou shouldst be furnished with a companion ready and willing and able to strengthen thee in every good word and work. O! for humility and watchfulness and faithfulness on thy part—remember that the enemy is, and will be as much on the alert as ever he was, and though he may change his baits, his temptations will require the whole armour of light to enable thee to discover and elude them; how much greater the danger when presenting himself as an angel of light, than when assuming the character of the prompter to wickedness! On these occasions may thine eye be kept single to thy holy Head, and then "thy whole body being full of light" thou wilt be favoured to discover his wiles, and discriminate between his voice and that

of the true Shepherd, who will not be wanting in every hour of extremity to support, sustain, and comfort thee. I feel greatly consoled in the reflection that thou wilt have great advantage, as a secondary means, from the experience of thy new parent,* who is eminently qualified to take thee by the hand, and lead thee on in the path of safety; and however it may please Divine Providence to dispose of me, whether in sickness or in health, or even in the valley of the shadow of death, my soul will be comforted under the cheering belief that the feet of my dear offspring are mercifully turned, in a good degree, into the way of peace, and I trust will be enabled to breathe its secret aspirations to the throne of Grace for their increase of stability, and continued preservation. For you, dear Thomas and Rachel, I pray in an especial manner, that you may be blessed with the dew of Heaven, and as you are engaged to dwell under its invigorating influence, sufficient of the fatness of the earth will be vouchsafed to you; of this my faith is unshaken.

On his first going out as a commercial traveller, his father writes as follows.

* His wife's father, G. Richardson of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

1st mo. 3, 1825.

We shall be anxious to hear from thee; many of thy friends have expressed their surprise, some their regret, that thou art gone out on a commercial expedition, aware of the temptations that await such exposure, as necessarily attends such a life; but we hope our prayers for thee will be heard, and that thou wilt be preserved on the right hand and on the left. We have indeed a subtle adversary to contend with, who suits his baits to our dispositions, and assails with such weapons as are most calculated to effect his purpose, that we have indeed need to be clad in the whole armour of light, and then truly we should be invulnerable to his most formidable attacks;—but O! how necessary to be continually on the watch. Thou inherits what has often been thy poor father's snare, a too lively disposition, which calls for proportionate vigilance, lest it should degenerate to levity. I have often found it an avenue to the heart, through which the enemy has had too easy access, and which requires a double guard. I believe it is thy sincere desire to be watchful in this respect; and I am sure I do not charge but caution—

the public eye is upon thee, and I know thou art anxious that no cause of offence should be administered through thee: continue, my dear Thomas, to maintain this watchful state of mind; it will, in connection with that Grace "which is sufficient for us," tend to preserve thee in the hour of temptation and to support thee in the day of trial. In the exercise of the gift in the ministry entrusted to thee, be faithful, whether in the little or the much, and be watchful lest thou shouldst, at any time, be tempted to give that portion of food to others which might be graciously intended for thy own spiritual refreshment. I need not recommend thee to read frequently the excellent Advices to Ministers and Elders, thou hast doubtless already done it, and found that they contain much sound and weighty counsel. Thou wilt accept these few hints from a father whose soul yearns for thy preservation, though not often enabled to tell thee so.

The letters which form so considerable a portion of this volume, will, we are persuaded, well repay perusal. The father will find manifested in them the wise counsel, the constant loving care of the Christian parent,

addressed to the school-boy, to the apprentice, to the young man entering upon business, to the tradesman in times of prosperous and adverse fortune: moderation and watchfulness enjoined in prosperity, lest the spirit of the world should obtain the mastery—increased diligence, and renewed trust in a Heavenly Father's care, in times of depression, to cheer and sustain amidst discouraging toil. The parent, reading these manifestations of fatherly care and counsel, may be stimulated to use like means, like prayerful earnestness towards his own children, in the various stages from youth to manhood, and may entertain a firm trust that a blessing will attend his labours and his prayers. Nor will the school boy or school girl, the young man and the young woman, fail to find in them counsels adapted to many of the varying circumstances, temptations and trials of their own path.

About half a century ago, a little book, entitled "Advice to the Teens," by Isaac Taylor, the father of the venerable philosopher of Stanford Rivers, had a wide circulation amongst

the young. It was an excellent manual of moral and religious counsel. It had this drawback, the counsels were abstractions—generalities. In the letters of Thomas Pumphrey, addressed to his children, from the age of five or six to that of twenty and thirty, will be found advice adapted to the real exigencies, the varied occurrences of every day life; as well as to the not less real and varied phases of religious growth, from the appearance first of the blade, then of the ear, and in one instance that of the full corn in the ear—fully ripe and at length gathered and safe for ever in the heavenly garner. But to the teens especially, there is addressed in these mirrors of a father's love, and a father's prayers, kind, loving, faithful, judicious counsel, clothed in language of peculiar beauty and sweetness. To his children, about to enter, or having entered into the holy bond of matrimony, his letters are not less beautiful and appropriate. And as in the evening of his day, he looked from the delectable mountains towards the gate of the celestial city, and when he came to the land of Beulah, "with its sweet and pleasant air,

from whence he could not so much as see Doubting Castle"—his letters thence and his converse while there, breathed the very perfume of the land. The strong man, the man of determined will, who could, when occasion required, assume the port of offended authority, was no longer seen. These characteristics were replaced by the meekness, the gentleness, the sweetness, the love of the pilgrim, waiting—though neither he nor his friends thought the summons so near—waiting till the King's messenger should bid him cross the river.

The minister of the Gospel too may be instructed by the occasional reference to the besetments, the trials, the sorrows, the rejoicings permitted to the servant by his Lord, who had trodden the path of suffering before him. His carefulness not to exceed the measure of his gift, his willingness even to appear as a fool for Christ's sake—content at times to suffer in silence—yet at times enabled to rejoice in the ability granted to proclaim with freedom, and with all the glow of earnestness and love, the good tidings of

great joy. His watchful humility when thus favoured was not the least of the favours which he enjoyed.

The following extract from a letter, written shortly after the decease of his brother Samuel, contains an instructive lesson.

We have in the room in which dear Samuel and myself used to lodge, a bookcase, the secretary part of which is divided equally between us; and though we had free access to the whole, we never interfered with each other's side. On opening this a day or two after my brother's decease, I found on the very top, so that if I had been disposed I could have seen it at any time, a paper unfinished and apparently recently written, directing how he wished a few of his books disposed of, and consigning to me exclusively the charge of his letters and papers. I can assure thee I have been instructed and deeply humbled in looking over these valuable treasures, in comparing them with what mine would be found to be after my decease, should that event occur soon. I do not remember a single document, either original or selected, calculated to excite a feeling of levity, but on

the contrary they had generally an instructive, moral or religious tendency, and were strictly characteristic of himself.

In the year 1826 Thomas Pumphrey was united in marriage with Rachel Richardson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. In this, as well as in the relationships already referred to, he was peculiarly blest. His beloved wife was well qualified and was ever ready to sympathise with her husband in his religious exercises.

The following letter, addressed to his friend Rachel Richardson, previously to their union, records his feelings in reference to the acknowledgment, by the Monthly Meeting, of his gift in the ministry.

Worcester, 10 mo. 9, 1826.

Thou hast probably been informed by thy father, that it is intended to bring the subject of thy poor friend's ministerial communications before an adjournment of our next Monthly Meeting. I can truly say I feel appalled at the prospect; my many weaknesses, my great natural disposition to levity, my youth, and many other causes conjoined, make me to

tremble, lest, if it be the judgment of Friends that I should be recorded as a Minister, I should bring reproach by my subsequent conduct, on the precious cause, which it has felt to me to be my duty, in my small measure, to espouse. Oh! that I may seek to be preserved in littleness, in nothingness, in total abasement of self, that the Lord alone may be exalted. I believe I have thy prayers, my beloved R., and I trust in our future life, I shall often be helped on my way by thy instrumentality.

THOMAS PUMPHREY TO HIS WIFE.

Worcester, 6th mo. 18, 1827.

The remarks which my observations on my business have excited in thy letter, have been a strength and a comfort to me, and I have felt thankful in being united, in the closest and the dearest connexion in life, to one who can so cordially enter into my views and feelings, and who is so readily disposed to do what she can to strengthen my hands in the best things.

Indeed, my love, I think we have abundant cause to encourage one another to confide in Him, whose gracious Providence has abundantly supplied all our wants. The more I see of human affairs, the more I am convinced, that

the sagacity and wisdom of the creature, even in temporal things, are of little avail, except as they are exercised in dependence on an overruling Power, and in due subordination to things of superior importance; if it be seen best by the Sovereign Disposer of events, the meal in the barrel, and the oil in the cruse will not waste; but if it would be best otherwise, whether to humble the pride of man, to teach him whom to fear, and where to trust; or whether to prove the faith of those who do desire to serve the Lord, the canker-worm and the locust, the moth and the rust, may be permitted to destroy the largest substance: things over which we have no control, and which we could not foresee, may bring us down into the depths of adversity; yet here the humble Christian sees and acknowledges the hand Divine, and is, in this tried state, at times enabled to say with the Psalmist, "I will sing of mercy and of judgment: unto Thee, O Lord will I sing;" both are united in these proving dispensations, and he whose eye is opened to behold them in this light, will acknowledge it.

I think thou wilt not misunderstand me; this view is quite consistent with the proper, (by which I mean the active) exertion of our

own endeavours; and I no more believe that the Divine blessing will rest on the slothful man's affairs, than I believe that without the Divine blessing, the exertions of the industrious man will succeed: sometimes indeed the latter may accumulate wealth, when his heart is not right with the Lord, but that is not the success to which the Christian aspires.

Thy affectionate

THOMAS.

The early death of Henry Brady, one of the Ackworth masters, a young man of great promise, endowed with rare gifts for governing and teaching, called forth the following letter to the sorrowing widow. This event was not without its bearing upon Thomas Pumphrey's future life. Henry Brady had been looked towards hopefully as a successor to Robert Whitaker, whose advancing age indicated that he could not for many more years sustain the responsibilities of Superintendent of Ackworth School.

LETTER ADDRESSED TO H. BRADY ON THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND.

Worcester, 10th mo. 18, 1828.

In reflecting on the loss which thou hast sustained—which the school has sustained—which both civil and religious society have sustained, I have been frequently constrained to adopt the language of the Apostle, "Oh! the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!" Although we cannot fathom the gracious purposes of the Most High, yet even in the depth of affliction, the Christian however low his faith may ebb, must still believe and acknowledge that God is love, and that he doth not willingly afflict the children of men. This consideration is powerful to sustain under the severest trials, and through this influence we are enabled in the hour of most bitter suffering to look up unto God, as unto a most merciful and tender father.

The loss which the church has sustained is doubtless great, for our beloved friend appeared to be eminently qualified by his superior mental endowments, and by the gifts and graces of the

Holy Spirit to shine as a star of the first magnitude amongst us. Some of us may perhaps ask, "wherefore was one so useful taken away?" But the answer which has silenced this unbelieving thought in my own breast has been this, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." It has felt to me,—what if in a short time the departed spirit hath done that which was given him to do, shall we repine? The work of the Lord is not accomplished by the willings and actings of the creature; and perhaps a death such as thy dear husband's, may be more effectual to the accomplishment of the Almighty's purposes than had his life been spared. The Lord called him to the work and he answered, "Here I am." He bowed in humble dedication, and the All-seeing One, accepted his obedience: like Abraham of old, he believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.

Mayst thou, therefore, my dear friend, be comforted; mayst thou be encouraged; mayst thou be sustained in the remembrance that one of the peculiar attributes of the Almighty is that He regardeth the widows, even the widows that trust in Him.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS MOTHER.

Edinbro', 5th mo. 5, 1829.

In my last I mentioned very briefly that I arrived safely in this beautiful city. Having partaken of breakfast, (at Morpeth) we journeyed forward, and soon came in view of the beautiful sea, the sight of which always animates me; it was like the earth, a scene of active commotion, and the rising and falling of the white-wreathed billows, were watched by me with unwearied interest. About half way to Alnwick we changed horses, at a pretty village called Felton, having a rather romantic stream running through it, which flows into the ocean at Warkworth, of anchorite fame. I remembered I was travelling through the field of my mother's religious labours, (then Ann Baker,) and a number of serious, chastened reflections were frequently occupying my mind, as we rode along. Oh! that it might be my unceasing concern, to follow her, as I believe she humbly endeavoured to follow Christ, and in obedience to His leadings and teachings to do whatsoever was required of her, however painful, or however humiliating.

Passing onward, we reached Alnwick, a good town, which appears to be much indebted to its

patron, the Duke of Northumberland, for some of its accommodations. In the centre of the town is a large, substantial, stone structure, the lower part of which is used as a butchers' market, and above are the Assembly Rooms, built, I was informed, at the Duke's expense. The Castle is of the ancient baronial character, and carries us back into days of the olden time, when each of these castles was the fortress of a petty sovereign, and all the surrounding population were his vassals; we live in more happy days, when the degrading distinctions of lord and slave are not known within our borders, and we may hope that the time is approaching, when even in the islands of the sea, the voice of Christian liberty will be heard, and her universal sway acknowledged.

I remain,

Thy affectionate THOMAS.

RELIGIOUS VISIT IN DEVONSHIRE AND CORNWALL.

Exeter, 6th mo. 1, 1831.

My beloved Rachel,

It is with feelings of thankfulness that I inform thee of my safe arrival in this city, after having had an auspicious journey down.

Inside the coach was a female with an infant

about four months old, who excited my sympathy and often caused me to recur to our journey into the north. The child was very good upon the whole, and it afforded me a sincere gratification to render its poor mother, who was in delicate health and an indifferent traveller, what little assistance I could by occasional nursing and endeavouring to amuse her little charge. I found it was an only child and a great treasure, and I had some interesting conversation on the uncertainty which attaches to such gifts, and the importance of our holding them in due subserviency to Him who gave them; and I reminded the doting mother, who thought that she should never be happy again if she lost her babe, that I had often felt it would greatly reconcile me to the deprivation of either of our precious lambs, should such be the Divine will, that at present they were innocent, and we might reverently hope would be happy in another state; and that had they lived they might have been drawn away from that path in which alone is true happiness, and be a source of misery to themselves and of the most poignant grief and sorrow to their parents and friends. I touched also on the great responsibility of parents, and altogether I was much interested in my companion.

* * * * * *

In the prospect of the engagement before me, I constantly feel weak and insufficient, poor and empty, but I can say with gratitude that I am enabled to trust Him who I believe has required this at my hands, and I dare not doubt but that he will be with me to help and sustain, to qualify and preserve as I am engaged to seek singly unto Him. The way is opening very encouragingly, William Fry of Woodgate, having so far felt sympathy with me as to be willing to accompany me in a gig through Devon and Cornwall.

My thoughts often recur to thee my dearly beloved, and to the dear children; and I have desired, I may say it is my fervent prayer, that thou mayst be preserved in cheerful resignation, and that thou mayst experience the Divine blessing to attend thee, in thy goings out and in thy comings in, that whatsoever may be permitted in the providence of Him who doeth all things according to the counsel of his own will, we may in our respective situations be enabled to trust Him, and to praise his great and adorable name.

Trusting I may often be remembered by my friends, and by thee especially, my dear Rachel,

in your best moments, I remain with dear love to father, brothers, sisters, and other relations, not forgetting my beloved wife and children,

Thy very affectionate THOMAS.

Rackenford, Devon, 6th mo. 4, 1831.

My beloved Rachel,

I trust my love thou art faring well in all things, and that He who is graciously condescending to be with thy poor husband, is not forgetful of thee. This I know He will not, as thou art engaged above all to be found waiting on Him.

My last letter made thee acquainted with my having attended the Monthly Meeting, but as many friends belonging to Exeter were not present, I did not feel my mind relieved without requesting another opportunity, which was fixed for half-past six o'clock, on Fifth-day evening. It was satisfactory and relieving, and I was engaged at much greater length than is at all usual with me, perhaps than I ever was, in addressing the younger Friends and those in the station of parents, and was afterwards engaged in supplication for the Divine blessing upon us in our several allotments. My time in

Exeter I trust was not unprofitably employed in visiting such Friends as from age or infirmity are prevented from getting out.

I proceeded forward to Spiceland, accompanied by Edward Wilkie. Spiceland is a most inviting secluded rural retreat, and well calculated for contemplation: but soon after I sat down my thoughts were disposed to wander, and I was convinced that it was not in local circumstances or situation to command devotional feelings. Something to this effect I was constrained to tell Friends, and was led to enlarge on the spirituality of the nature of worship, and of the requisite preparation for its right performance—that this was not likely to be attained if our religion were confined to the meeting-house. I had to speak of the necessity of personal religion; and I trust the meeting was satisfactory to all. I feel relieved by it, and have thankfully to acknowledge that hitherto I have been helped beyond what I ever expected. May I keep low and continually dependent.

I find W. F. a cheerful instructive companion, and as he is at home in almost every part of Cornwall, and knows nearly every member of our Society in that county, he will be truly

valuable to me in that particular. We expect to get all the Meetings west of Truro visited before the Monthly Meeting, and to finish in these two counties with the Devonshire Quarterly Meeting, on the 29th of this month.

Falmouth, 6th mo. 10, 1834.

My dear Rachel,

Thy interesting letter was duly received, and I am thankful to find you are getting on comfortably, indeed we are both at home and abroad graciously cared for.

Thou wilt be interested to know that though often weak and sometimes discouraged, that hitherto I have had no cause to distrust Him who I believe hath sent me forth a feeble instrument to promote his cause, or to doubt that I am in my right place in this engagement.

At Launceston we visited the Castle where Geo. Fox was confined, and saw the green where he struck Major Seeley such a blow as he never had in his life, by telling him to beware of hypocrisy and a rotten heart.

A very solemn meeting at Truro, in which I had nothing to say till towards the close, when I was engaged to bow the knee in solemn thanksgiving and prayer.

This morning I came over to this place (Falmouth) to attend the funeral of my kind friend, Samuel E. Tregelles. The meeting was large and solemn; (enumerating other Friends who were engaged in ministry, T. P. adds) I was enabled in much fear to labour according to my small capacity, to my own relief and comfort, and I trust the meeting was felt to be a time of divine favour.

My quarters are at Elizabeth Fox's—my lodging-room overlooking the beautiful harbour with a number of fine Packets and other ships floating on its surface. I am writing this at Wm. Crouch's, and after dinner we are going to Ashfield. My feelings on visiting this meeting are of a mingled character: sweet, solemn, joyful, mournful, humbling, but deeply interesting. I left a schoolboy, I am returned a man, and in the solemn character of a minister of the Gospel—how awful, how wonderful, how humiliating. I am greeted with kindness and cordiality by many; and if any kindness and care can compensate for those of a tender wife, I am receiving them here. "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits." We stop here most likely over First-day, visiting the sick, &c. in which engagement I believe

I have been rightly employed in other places.

The date of this reminds me, I am this day 29 years old.

Thine tenderly and affectionately,

THOS. PUMPHREY.

Falmouth, 6th mo. 13, 1831.

My beloved Rachel,

Seated in my spacious and comfortable lodging-room, provided with every accommodation, overlooking the beautiful expanse of this noble harbour, separated from it by little more than the width of the road, and having in view several large ships lying at anchor on the roads, with the wooded headland of Trefusis on the one hand, the castles of Pendennis and St. Mawes commanding the entrance from the extensive bay on the other, I have taken up the pen again to address thee, and with a thankful heart—a heart deeply contrited under a sense of the Lord's goodness, to acknowledge his merciful dealings towards me. After my last letter was put into the office, I went up to visit the mourners at Ashfield, but I found they were experiencing the joy of grief, that their sorrow had been turned into rejoicing, because they had abundantly to believe that their dear

father had been mercifully prepared through the sanctifying operations of the Holy Spirit, for an entrance into the joy of his Lord, and that he had exchanged an afflicted suffering tabernacle for a glorious and immortal crown. The party was large, and the evening one of distinguished favour, long I trust to be remembered. Sylvanus Fox enlarged in a very instructive manner on the text "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof, and the day of death than the day of one's birth." I was also engaged to my own relief and inward peace, both in ministry and supplication, and had cause to rejoice that my lot has been cast among them.

We were intending to proceed, after tea, to Burncoose, eight miles, to the house of John Williams, when a painful and trying accident prevented our proceeding; the horse and gig were ready, and the man had left it under the charge of the female servant, while he went to get George Fox's horse to take him home to Perran. An idle boy in passing, caught the rein, and giving it a sudden pull caused the horse to back, which it continued to do, notwithstanding the exertions of the poor terrified woman, till the wheels went over the quay,

entirely unprotected, and the whole was hurled into the water, which was nearly at full tide, the fall might be eight or ten feet; there was perhaps from eighteen inches to two feet of water. Some sailors immediately jumped in, and holding the horse's head above water, soon disengaged him from his perilous situation, and he does not appear to be in any way injured, except a slight graze on the inside of one leg scarcely worth notice. Trying as the circumstance was, it is a cause of deep thankfulness that no lives are lost, in a minute or two more we should have been in the gig and we might have been killed by the accident, so that I felt bowed in gratitude, rather than unduly discouraged. It caused me to enter into scrutiny as to whether I was right in my movements, and to the praise of the great name of my God, I felt no condemnation; I was preserved perfectly calm, though it was a fearful sight to see the poor horse nearly covered with the sea and the tide rising, the gig lying broken in the water, and our luggage thoroughly soaked, strewed about in boats and on the beach. I speak it not boastingly, but under a feeling of unmerited favour, that my mind was supported by the sweet remembrance of the passage,

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." Our dear friends of this family have seemed unable to do enough for us, their kindness, care and sympathy have been almost unbounded, and I feel that I have contracted a debt of gratitude which I can never repay.

Fourth-day, Truro.—Finding our horse's leg rather puffed, on Second-day morning our kind caretaker thought it best to send us on in a chaise, and so in company with Edward Crouch, who was returning home to Penzance, we proceeded thither. Our road lay through Penzance, Helston and Marazion. At this last place we stopped to dine with a dear Friend, Eleanor Richards, who has been confined six years with a spinal complaint, almost entirely to her bed; but she is a highly interesting and instructive example of suffering affliction and patience, and my lot was to sit in silence under the powerful practical preaching of her cheerful resignation and patient submission.

Third-day morning, left Penzance early, returning to Marazion, and the tide being up we had a beautiful view of the bay and St. Michael's Mount, which was then completely insulated and formed a striking object in the foreground,

whilst the lands about the Lizard were dimly seen in the distance—Penzance with its pier forming a tolerably secure harbour lay behind us, and the wide expanse of the English Channel stretched before us. We proceeded to Camborne, and thence to Redruth to meeting at eleven o'clock; here my way seemed quite fenced up, and I was bowed under feeling of great desertion and barrenness, but not in despair. Towards the close of the meeting I was strengthened to stand up and in a few words to state my personal feelings, and to request the sympathy and prayers of the meeting, when my way gradually opened and I was enabled to gain relief, and out of weakness to be made in some degree strong. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever!

Thomas Pumphrey's love for children, and his Christian concern for them, even in their very tender years, manifested by his not unfrequent counsel, in his ministry and on social occasions to mothers, on their solemn responsibilities, seemed to be preparing him for a new field of service; the time for which, unknown to himself, was now

drawing very near. The following letter relates an instance of this exercise of his mind.

TO HIS WIFE.

Ivy Bridge, 6th mo. 30, 1831.

In concluding this part of his engagement he writes: The Monthly and Quarterly Meetings were times of favour and relief; M. Bragg was engaged in both as was also thy poor husband, I had also to go into the women's meeting into which I was accompanied by Joseph Treffrey an exercised valuable elder. I was engaged to address mothers on their important duties; this has been a prevalent concern with me, and also to caution against deceiving ourselves by supposing an amiable disposition was necessarily a religious one.

CHAPTER II.

Letter to his Wife—Change of Business—Discouraging Stock-taking—Religious visit to Ackworth School—Prospect of Superintendence in a Letter to A. P.—Engaged as Superintendent and enters on his Post—Sketch of Thomas Pumphrey by one of the Masters—Letters to his Wife—Letters to his Daughter—Religious visit to Norfolk and Lincoln—Letter to his Father—Christian Independence.

Though desiring not to overload our narrative with correspondence, yet seeing it is, as we have already said, chiefly through this medium that we shall have to present our friend, we may be permitted to insert letters more frequently than would have been needful had we other modes of presenting a portrait. The few following letters introduce us to the secular incidents, as well as to the mental and spiritual conflicts which preceded and led to his position at Ackworth School.

TO HIS WIFE ON A VISIT TO NEWCASTLE.

Worcester, 7th mo. 17, 1833.

My dearest Rachel,

I have been thinking frequently since the receipt of thy truly acceptable letter, what numerous causes we have for thankfulness to the great and gracious Giver of all our mercies. Whether we regard our daily favours, which, being common, are perhaps less thought of, but the deprivation of which we should most severely feel, or those special favours which we are more disposed to recognise and acknowledge, of which class, preservation during your long journey is one; or those spiritual favours and privileges, which are from day to day mercifully vouchsafed to us; whether, my dear, we regard the one or the other, are we not loudly called upon to adore that Almighty Goodness and Power, who thus leads us with his loving-kindness and tender mercies? But here we may well pause, and consider our utter unworthiness, to be classed with the least of the Lord's family, abounding as I trust we both deeply feel we do, with infirmity and transgression, with luke-warmness, with pride, with stubbornness, and perhaps, at times, even with rebellion; and yet, such is the inexpressible

love of our God and Saviour, that He does graciously regard us as children, and still draws us with cords of love, nearer and nearer to Himself. Oh! that we may not resist His gracious power working in us, and, as yielded to, bringing into closer conformity to His own pure and holy nature. It is a great and glorious attainment, to be made meet for an inheritance amongst all those that are sanctified, yet this is the great design of our existence, and I earnestly desire that we, my beloved Rachel, may be engaged to commend one another "to God and to the word of His grace," which alone is able to build us up in our most holy faith, alone is able to qualify us for His service here, and to sing His praises through eternity. And may we increasingly cherish a thankful heart to taste our Heavenly Father's gifts with joy: it is a peculiar mark of our Father's love, that gratitude to Him as the giver, enhances our enjoyment of His gifts, and thus in rendering to Him his due, we are made the instruments of multiplying our own mercies; gratitude, like prayer, is as much a privilege as a duty, and brings its own reward with it. After the preceding remarks, thou wilt readily believe that I have felt thankful that you were favoured to

accomplish your long journey in safety, and with as much of comfort, as, considering its length and your care, could have been anticipated.

Thy affectionate THOMAS.

Thomas Pumphrey's first engagements in business were in the gloving trade, in which he succeeded his father. In the early part of the present century, this might be considered the staple trade of Worcester. Several families of Friends were engaged in the business. Changes in the mode of manufacture, and the absorption of the trade in fewer hands, rendered it a less profitable undertaking, and Thomas Pumphrey withdrew. His next engagement in business was not of a more prosperous kind, and the following beautiful picture of the Christian tradesman under adverse circumstances, cannot fail to be read with more than common interest. We may also perhaps recognise the course of secular circumstances as well as that of the inner life, as preparing for another sphere of service. To provide for the material wants of our fellow sojourners, may be

the allotted service of a disciple of Christ, for in the intercourse of trade there are special opportunities for the Christian to manifest whose servant he is. He may continually illustrate his Lord's precept, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." And yet we cannot regret when the path of one, gifted for other service, that of training immortal spirits for heaven, is blocked up and a way to his appointed work is opened before him.

Worcester, 8th mo. 18, 1833.

My dearest Rachel, be not over much discouraged, or unduly anxious. I cannot let go my trust in providential care. I never have except momentarily, and though I see not why we are thus proved, I do fully believe we shall have all things necessary granted to us, as we are found in humble dependence, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; nevertheless we have no right to presume; we are not warranted in it, and while we economise to the utmost of our power in our expenditure, we ought well to consider to what other means

we can have recourse, to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

I have hardly known whether or not it would be best to let thee know all before thy return, lest it should damp thy enjoyment; but I have not felt satisfied without doing it, and for this I have two reasons; I do not wish to keep thee in suspense, and I wish thee to consult dear father, with whom I had a little conversation respecting our circumstances when here, apprehending what this year's stock-taking might prove. The result has not come upon us unexpectedly, and this may account for the little effect it has had on my own spirits, both of us [his brother and he] being generally cheerful and hopeful still.

Our portion hitherto has been, in regard to outward things, one of a rather gloomy aspect, and it is on thy account, my most precious one, that I feel these things most. I know thy naturally anxious disposition cannot rise above discouragements, like my buoyant spirits: I wish, but it is a vain and a foolish wish, that I could impart a portion of them to thee; however as our lot for life is laid together, it may be some comfort to thee to know, that on my

own account, on the dear children's account I fear nothing. I have strong faith on this point; I firmly trust. Be persuaded, my dearest, to take me by the arm, and then I do not fear for thee in these matters. We know not what gracious designs our great unerring Father and Friend has, in thus permitting us to be tried; it has at least impressed upon us this truth, that, however fair our prospects, however assiduous in business, nothing can be depended on unless He bless: let us reflect on the mercies that remain, on the outward provision still left us. I have yet £ **** and a good house full of valuable furniture; I have a dearly beloved wife and three precious children, training I hope for Heaven; with such goodly assets, I have only to compare myself with many, who have neither money, nor house, nor furniture, nor beloved wife, nor precious children; but have without them, sickness and poverty, and bare clothing, and hard fare, and no work; and then to say from the overflowings of a grateful and a trusting heart, "What shall I render unto Thee, oh! Lord for all thy benefits?" Thus my love would I encourage thee, and be encouraged myself, and commending thee to the gracious

guardianship of Israel's Shepherd, subscribe myself with a husbands's love.

Thy affectionate THOMAS.

The following letter discloses the train of feelings and incidents which led to Thomas Pumphrey's appointment to the Superintendence of Ackworth School. In the spring of 1834 he had been visiting Ackworth under an impression of religious duty, with the approbation of his Monthly Meeting. This visit brought him into intimate acquaintance with the whole establishment, Superintendent, officers, teachers, servants, and scholars, and may be regarded as another preparatory incident.

8th mo. 23, 1834.

My dear Cousin, (A. P.)

My dear Rachel and myself feel obliged to thee and our kind Friends at Ackworth for the expression of your sympathy and friendly feeling towards us, under our present prospects. The subject has been indistinctly before me for years, dating as far back as Henry Brady's death; and since the decease of our dear friend

Hannah Whitaker, it has opened with great clearness. It had so far ripened that I was very desirous of breaking it to my dear wife; but before I had made the least allusion to it, as we were talking over your then recent bereavement, and its probable effect in inducing Robert Whitaker's retirement, she remarked, that she thought it would be just such a post as would suit me. I smiled, and remarked, "dost thou think so?" and then told her what was passing in my mind, and found that for two or three days, the subject had been, very unconsciously to me, engaging her attention.

My path has been made very plain before me, so that I have never had a doubt that the course I have pursued, was the one it was my duty to take; and if it be only for the trial of my faith and love to the cause of my heavenly Master, and the will is accepted, without the actual service being required; in other words, if the committee do not deem me eligible, I believe I shall feel relieved. Before I had heard of dear Robert Whitaker's affecting state, I had written to Samuel Tuke, informing him of my prospect, that whenever a vacancy might occur, I believed it would be right for me to offer, but the letter had not gone when thy letter to me

arrived, stating several particulars respecting your beloved superintendent.

I had my visit to Ackworth in view, previously to the General meeting of last year, but the way did not then open for its accomplishment, and I trust it was in right ordering that I was with you when I was. It is very satisfactory and consoling to know, that should my lot be cast in with you, it is likely the appointment will prove acceptable to many of the family, if there should be any to whom it will be otherwise, although I should greatly regret it, I can only say it is not of my own choosing. Great indeed is my affection for you all, intense the interest I feel for the dear children and for the prosperity of the Institution, but regarding the awfulness (I may say) of the responsibilities which the station involves, and the smallness both of the number and measure of the needful qualifications I possess for such a post, nothing less I believe than an imperative sense of religious obligation would have induced me to offer. Although at times the prospect, from a great variety of considerations has been almost overwhelming, yet I have been graciously led along, and the mountains have become a plain before me, so that I can thankfully acknowledge that the

Lord is good, and that His Grace is indeed sufficient. Should I be called to preside over you, Oh how I shall need your prayers, how shall I need often to be found waiting at the divine footstool for strength and qualification: and how shall I need that help which we know is laid upon an all-sufficient Saviour. I would make one further remark, and then I will not longer weary thee with the subject. I feel how great an advantage it will really be to any successor of dear Robert Whitaker's, to follow such a man, whose wise arrangements, great experience and judicious government have so greatly contributed to render Ackworth what it is,—but on the other hand, the poor Friend, whoever he may be, who follows, suffers greatly by comparison, and it will be almost inevitable that the various members of the family will have much to bear and forbear, under a new Superintendent. I trust you will calculate upon this, and be willing to put the best construction upon all he does and says, remembering that even though he possessed that remarkable combination of qualifications for his office by which our valued friend Robert Whitaker was distinguished, yet would he lack his lengthened experience, and the wisdom of his grey hairs,

There is one thing which all along I have ardently desired and prayed for; that he might have been permitted to resume his duties among you, and that such an extended service might have closed in brightness—*that*, in the inscrutable will of the All-wise disposer of events, is not permitted, but still the fervent wish of my heart is, that he may yet emerge from the cloud which at present overshadows him, and that his sun may yet go down undimmed, and his departing rays be permitted to cheer those, whom his noonday brightness has so long warmed and animated. I cannot but cherish the belief it will be so; but whether or not, of this I entertain no doubt, that "the glories of heaven will beam bright on his waking, and the song he will hear, be the seraphim's song."

You appear to have had a Jubilee indeed at Ackworth, on the 1st instant, but I did not perceive by thy account that any thing was done towards the Bible Society's "Negro Fund." At Worcester, a meeting was held in our Meeting-house, after which about £45 was raised for supplying the emancipated slaves with the Testament and Psalter. In the course of a few observations which I made at the meeting, I stated that it was just fifty years

since Friends first came forward *publicly* to advocate the abolition of the slave trade and slavery, and I read the extract from the Yearly Meeting's Epistle of 1784 on the subject, so that we might regard it as our Jubilee. It was a joyful, deeply interesting meeting; we felt the day to be a day which the Lord had made, and we rejoiced and were glad in it. [After sending numerous messages of love to the teachers and officers of the Institution, he proceeds]—If the connection between us never be closer than at present, I feel it to be a bond which unites me very nearly to them all.

It is most likely I shall be summoned to attend the Committee in 10th month.

With dear love to thyself,

I remain,

Thy affectionate Cousin,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

We have traced the steps of Thomas Pumphrey towards the post at Ackworth. His offer of service was accepted by the Committee, and, with his wife, he entered upon the duties of Superintendent on the 2nd of the Twelfth month, 1834.

Three of his children were born before he entered on his post. He came to it therefore with all the advantages of parental feelings, and these of no ordinary character, springing from a heart glowing with a parent's love, chastened, controlled and regulated by a still higher affection, the love of his God and Saviour. And yet we readily grant that much which a previous professional training might have taught, had to be learned by daily practical lessons, amidst failures, discouragements and frequent depression.

To adapt treatment to symptoms, to discriminate between wilfulness and mere forgetfulness—to look leniently on the results of the exuberance of boyish spirits—to assume the air of authority not to be trifled with, towards the bold and daring—all these essentials of government are rarely intuitive, and have to be acquired and strengthened by large experience. To watch over the little ones, the timid, the gentle—to read in the countenance the lines of home-sickness—the young heart's sorrows, in secret overflowing at the eyes; for services of this latter kind

his loving spirit was well prepared. We deplore, and cannot but deplore, the absence of all record of these exercises, which had they been noted down by himself, as from time to time his heart sank within him, amidst apparently hopeless labours, or swelled with joyful thanksgiving amidst encouraging signs of success; how would these have interested and instructed all engaged in the same honourable and holy service! One secret of success, one unfailing source of comfort and encouragement amidst despondency, one place where he could pour out his thank offering of grateful praise in the prosperous day—the place of prayer—the blessed privilege of prayer—was well known, and often frequented and enjoyed by him. In the absence of autobiographical evidence, we perhaps cannot do better than introduce the testimony of one of Thomas Pumphrey's colleagues, who thus sketches his character as Superintendent of the School.

"From the very commencement of his administration he appeared to me to possess qualities calculated to render him a leading

man, and to inspire his colleagues with confidence. Under the controlling influence of Divine grace, his self-reliance, prompt decision, and strength of will were of essential benefit to the school, helping him in times of difficulty, and giving assurance to those who were co-operating with him. His mind was very suggestive, nor was he less ready in comprehending the plans and proposals of others. These gifts, combined with a sound judgment, made him a remarkably able counsellor. The teacher in his doubts and difficulties—the officers of the household in their various departments—the architect, the farmer, the mechanic, in their turn, might all consult with him, with the certainty of effectual help, either by the confirmation of their own plans, or by some new suggestion from him. As the head of the little community, his influence pervaded all its multifarious concerns. His was no departmental service. He was interested and helpful in every thing connected with the official working and the welfare of the school. The teachers could scarcely fail to be impressed

by the clear and comprehensive views taken by our beloved friend of the science of education. It was not the present alone of the school-boy's life that he considered; his practical mind turned towards the future. Intellectual knowledge had to be diligently imparted; but more than that, the mind had to be trained, ideas implanted, habits observed and regulated, moral and religious principles carefully and assiduously instilled. He was no inconsiderable reader; had a well stored mind, a singularly retentive memory, and conversational powers of no common order. Though his classical and mathematical attainments were limited, he manifested considerable ability in directing the educational arrangements of the school. He reposed large confidence in those under him. To the conscientious labourer this was a great help, inciting him to diligence in his calling, and to watchfulness that this confidence should not be misplaced, and that it might be warmly reciprocated. These sentiments tended to promote the harmony, the heartiness and the community of feeling,

which marked Thomas Pumphrey's administration. Though tenderly forbearing in cases of deficiency, he had an exalted idea of the teacher's office, and of the moral and religious qualifications requisite for those who engaged in it."

"I well remember," says our informant, "his setting forth, on one occasion in public ministry, the requirements of the Christian teacher, how his will, his impulses, his motives, and his affections, should all be subjected to the yoke of Christ, and regulated by Divine grace. He then proceeded to set forth the teacher's duties, his cares and burdens, and responsibilities and joys; concluding with the words, 'This is our high vocation, this is our honourable calling, these are our solemn responsibilities, this is our blessed reward.'

"He had a discriminating insight into character. Though less intimately associated with the children than their teachers were, we often observed how strikingly correct he was in his estimate of individuals, and how wisely he handled the moral delinquent, the

insubordinate, or the morose offender. His sympathy with children gave him much hold on their minds. I can recall groups of new comers listening with tearful eyes to his loving words of comfort. He knew how to soothe the fretful, to console the bereaved, to direct and help the tenderly visited mind. He well understood the natural joyousness of youth, and, possessed of great natural liveliness himself, he was eminently qualified for ministering to their pleasure.

"One marked feature in his character was ability in emergencies. Whilst he greatly valued the help and support of the Committee, he did not shrink from undertaking responsibility himself.

"In any case of sudden illness or alarming accident, he knew at once what to do. When sickness prevailed in the school he was eminently calm and collected. His movements, his directions, his looks, all denoted this, and inspired confidence in those who looked up to him for counsel, direction or support. Nor can I forbear to mention his wonderful composure beside the dying bed.

Such occasions drew him forth in a remarkable manner. He sympathised with and comforted the stricken relatives. His ministry was at such times of a very striking character. Nor was this character confined to such occasions. At times in our meetings for worship, and more frequently in the First-day evening readings, he was instructively engaged in the exercise of his gift. He had largely the power of adapting his language to his youthful audience, and of drawing lessons for children from any portion of Scripture read. Varied as was his language (for he had a rare command of words), varied too as were the illustrations of divine truth, used by him to simplify his subject, and to arrest and fix the attention of the children, his constant aim was to lead their thoughts to Jesus.

"Often, too, in our First-day evening readings, he was enlarged in prayer. The children, the teachers, the officers, the servants, and the varied interests of the whole establishment were presented at the Father's throne."

The following selection from Thomas

Pumphrey's letters, some of them addressed to his wife on her occasional absence from home, were written during the first few years of his residence at Ackworth.

Ackworth School, 10th mo. 12, 1835.

I have scarcely referred to thyself, my love, but thou art often the subject of our conversation, and still oftener of our thoughts. I trust thou hast enjoyed, and art still enjoying, the society of our dear friends amongst whom thou art moving, and that thou wilt return to thy many cares, with health and spirits renovated, and ability increased to support them. On looking back at what we have had to pass through, since we were united together, (though to others our lot may perhaps have appeared smooth,) and in considering how we have been brought through all, I cannot but humbly adore Him, whose goodness and mercy have thus followed us, and though a veil of obscurity often hangs over the end of a dark path, the remembrance of the help that has been afforded, and of the clear direction which has been given, stimulates me still to trust and not to be afraid.

We must do our best; we must labour diligently and perseveringly, using the means

which an all-gracious God has given us; but here we must rest. The blessing which we seek in faith will, I am persuaded, not be witheld; and I do therefore desire to encourage thee, my dearest, both by example and precept, not to yield to discouragement when things appear to be going adverse. In the situation we occupy, we must expect them. Wrong motives may sometimes be attributed to us, even by those who are watching the Institution for good, and they will often be, by those who seek opportunity to cavil; but still we may encouragingly remember, that "the servant is not above his Lord," and that "if these things have been done in a green tree, what will be done in a dry." Little things (comparatively) press thee down most; when I reflect how thou wast borne through the events of this time last year [when they were preparing to leave Worcester and enter upon their duties at Ackworth,] I cannot but admit it was the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes; and surely he would not think the least of thy burdens beneath His notice, who has thus condescended to us, so that we may safely cast all our care upon Him who careth for us. I remain,

Thy very affectionate THOMAS.

North Shields, 7th mo. 1, 1837.

My beloved Rachel,

Thy very interesting and satisfactory letter received this morning, has been exceedingly comforting and encouraging, and I have repeatedly recurred to its contents, during our sea-side ramble, with feelings of heartfelt gratitude. I think I have seldom received a letter from thee, in which thou wast enabled to speak so cheerfully of the present, and to look forward so encouragingly to the future. To do this is not always in our power, but I am quite convinced that the view thou hast taken is a correct one, and that the remembrance of the Lord's mercies, whether in present heights or depths, is very helpful in inducing that child-like dependence, and that simple confidence and trust in our God and Saviour, which it is so peculiarly desirable we should habitually cherish, and exemplify in our daily walk in life. We are very differently constituted, and I know comparatively little of those corroding anxieties, to which thou art sometimes a prey, but I do know full well what anxiety is, and at these seasons when the future is wrapped in gloom, or perhaps is perplexed with difficulties, I am strengthened by a consideration like that of the Psalmist, "I

said this is my infirmity, but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High." In looking back upon the past, although we have known discouragements, and some bitter ingredients mingled in the cup which we have had to drink together, yet I can even see the necessity there was for them, and I have some cheering hope, that the effect intended has been in some degree answered, though I am abasingly sensible, that there is yet much for the sword, the hammer and the fire, which must be submitted to them, ere we are what our Heavenly Father would have us to be. I desire however, my dearest, to encourage and to comfort thee, in the full persuasion, that thou has given to Jerusalem a preference above thy chief joy, and that He who hath chosen thee, as I thankfully believe, will strengthen every right desire, and will uphold thee by the all-sustaining Arm of His own righteousness.

Catherine Hill Cottage, Worcester,
6th mo. 9, 1838.

My beloved Rachel,

"As is thy day, so shall thy strength be." In how many ways have we been permitted, my dearest, to realize this promise, and

what encouragement is hereby administered, to "trust and not be afraid." The promise continued, in what I almost call my own text, is true spiritually as well as temporally, "verily thou shalt be fed." During the past interesting solemnity it has often been verified to me. I went up to London bowed in spirit, "in weakness and fear, and much trembling." I looked for no gratification in the Yearly Meeting, but suffering and trial, and deep discouragements; and it pleased the Lord closely to try my faith on the eve of setting out; and having proved it and sustained me under it through His mercy, to open a way where no way seemed, and to make it plain; so that on Seventh-day morning I felt quite satisfied to leave. Then during the Yearly Meeting how eminently have we been favoured; in our weakness strength was put forth; those who were called to labour prominently appeared to be of one heart and one mind, and to be united in the true oneness, in which the harmonious labour for the advancement of truth, can alone be experienced. With regard to my own little engagements, I had humblingly but thankfully to acknowledge that they were not my own, and that in as far as self interfered, the service was marred: so that I

have been reminded, and I hope I shall be reminded when Satan would tempt to self-complacency, of the inquiry, "What hast thou that thou hast not received." It was a privilege, of which I felt again and again altogether unworthy, to mingle in the exercises of beloved brethren and sisters, and to be united with them in promoting the cause of the Gospel.

Dear Wm. Forster, who seemed clothed with the spirit of the beloved disciple, and to be deeply baptized into a sense of the state of our Society, was as a Father amongst us; he took some of us by the hand; and appeared to give place to the little ones, rejoicing when a brother of low degree was exalted. Oh! he is a beautiful example of Christian humility, and is to me a striking exemplification of the text, "they that have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." To write these things to thee, my love, seems almost a duty, for in frequently reverting to the loving kindness and tender mercies which have been showered even upon me, since I left home, I am constrained to commemorate the goodness of the Lord. Oh! that words may not be all the fruit, but that I may return to my important duties, refreshed, strengthened, encouraged, with greater de-

votedness of spirit, increased dedication and simplicity of purpose, stronger in faith, enlarged in love, more determined in the strength of the Lord, (I write it reverently,) to labour in His cause, and abound increasingly therein; not to be unduly discouraged by difficulties, but patient in the tribulations, which from various causes will arise, continuing instant in prayer. I know thou canst unite in these desires, and dost unite; thou hast been, my love, a blessing to me, and though I am aware thou art often disposed to think thou art unequal to the place, in which, in the ordering of an inscrutable Providence, we are placed, and often feels thy cares, maternal and those of a more extended character, press heavily upon thee, yet cast not away thy confidence; thy services in the school are very acceptable to Friends, and in the care of our own precious ones, thou art in very deed a true help-meet. We cannot doubt our being in our right places; that is the first point; then let us be faithful therein, that is the second; and lastly do not let us distract ourselves with future contingencies, to the perplexing of present duties, and we may safely leave all the rest. The very consciousness of our weakness, will lead us to remember where help is laid.

What a blessing has Edward F. Brady been to Croydon; the savour of his spirit is felt, and the effects of his pious labours are seen, in the various departments of the Institution, and yet he was an invalid confined to his couch, and to all human apprehension, quite disqualified for such a service, as that of superintending such an establishment; his memory is precious there; it is truly blessed, and being dead he still speaks. Base things and things that are despised hath God chosen, weak things and foolish things, to the humbling of the creature, and the exaltation of His own excellent name.

Thy affectionate THOMAS.

TO HIS DAUGHTER WHEN TEN YEARS OLD.

Ackworth School, 7th mo. 20, 1838.

My dear Anna,

We have been much pleased to receive such very nice accounts of you since we parted at Selby. We are glad the weather has been so favourable for your getting out as it appears to have been, and that you enjoy your rambles on the sands, and that you like bathing. What a great deal we all have to be thankful for, to our kind and gracious Heavenly Father, who gives us all things richly to enjoy, and enables

us to enjoy them; if you were very poorly you could not enjoy even the ramble on the shore, or the seeking of shells and pretty stones, or any other of those pleasures of which you are now partaking. I hope my dear little girl endeavours to reflect on her mercies, and to consider, "not more than others she deserves, yet God has given her more," and that as she daily remembers these things she often seeks ability to thank the great and gracious Giver, and to ask him as he has given her much, to enable her to love much.

Next time thou goest to the curious little ancient Meeting-house, that thou thinks would amuse us so much, try, my love, to be very serious, and perhaps He who has promised to be with two or three when they meet together in His name, may favour even thy mind with a sense of his love towards thee, may soften thy heart, and make thee feel he is willing to take away thy naughty disposition, and to make thee a plant of his own right hand planting, if thou art but willing to submit to what he is telling thee, by his spirit in thy heart, he requires of thee. If this should happily be thy privilege next meeting day, thou wilt often

think of the nice little meeting at Bridlington, and desire more such at Ackworth.

Farewell my precious child, be good, be watchful, be a child of prayer.

Mother joins in love with

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

DURING A RELIGIOUS VISIT TO NORFOLK AND LINCOLN.

Wainfleet, 3rd mo. 30, 1839.

My dear, Rachel,

The occupation of the week has been so close, that I have been unable to sit down to write a letter, except the hurried page I sent thee, on Fifth-day from Fleet; but my mind has been with thee very often, and I have earnestly craved that He who has seen meet to require me to leave thee, and to suffer thee while thus left, to have thy cares and anxieties so greatly increased, would be mercifully pleased to be with thee, and to grant thee strength equal to thy day. I have desired that if consistent with His holy will, the indisposition in the family might be arrested, at least till I could take my own share of the burden.—Cast thy care upon the Lord and he will sustain

thee—his dispensations are often dark and mysterious, but I must trust Him in the remembrance of his mercies, in reliance on his promises, and everlasting faithfulness.

I am getting forward as fast as circumstances will admit, and think I may reasonably calculate on being at home, on Fifth-day morning. If I receive a worse account of the family at Brigg, I think it will be best to leave Gainsbro' to be taken at some future day, and get home by the most direct course from thence. My last letter brought my narrative to First-day morning; at the close of that meeting, I informed Friends, that without wishing any general notice to be given, it would be satisfactory to me, if such of their neighbours as generally inclined to attend our meetings, might be informed that our meetings for worship are open, and that we should be pleased with their company; at three o'clock, however, instead of some half score or dozen as I expected, the Meeting-house up stairs and down was well filled. I felt almost dismayed, but took my seat, simply desiring I might be faithful to my duty, and trust I was enabled to minister in the ability which God giveth. The people were very quiet; I was informed the

Methodist and Baptist ministers were there. Friends appeared well satisfied with the meeting, and I felt peaceful and thankful.

We got into Norwich about half-past nine; lodged at the inn, and the next morning walked out of town to W. Forster's, where we were most cordially received. W. Forster said he had been telling his wife a day or two before, that he had been sadly perplexed with dreaming that their friend George Richardson came to the Quarterly Meeting, and they could not take him in they were so full, and now his son-in-law had come and slept at an inn.

I went to Meeting under much depression, having no view at all as to my particular line of service, and apprehending it would be my lot to sit in silence. The Meeting House, is the grandest I ever was in, and one of the worst for speaking in. After sitting some time under deep exercise, a view of the sufficiency of divine grace for all our varying circumstances opened, and though I did not see to what it was likely to lead, I felt it my place to stand up and I am constrained reverently to acknowledge, that I was helped beyond any thing I could ask or think, to declare the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to warn the unfaithful of various classes in a

way very unusual in my little line of service. After meeting W. Forster encouragingly said, "well Thomas, it is plain that thou didst not follow a false light in coming to Norwich."

Thus my love, has thy poor husband been helped and encouraged, when he was deeply tried and his faith proved very closely, and though I know not what is still in store in connection with this little surrender of myself to the Lord's service, I feel an indubitable evidence that I was right in going.

Thine most tenderly,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS FATHER.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 21, 1839.

(In reference to a proposed excursion to Leeds with some of the school children.) I am quite obliged for thy caution and concern for our welfare and credit; with regard to the latter, whilst I confess I by no means despise the favourable opinion of my friends, yet I do most anxiously desire I may never make the obtaining it, the motive of my conduct; or perplex myself or my proceedings by the consideration of how it may be affected by them;

if the good opinion of my friends result from my endeavour whether in greater or or smaller matters, to do my best for the welfare of the Institution, I am thankful and shall highly value it; if on the other hand, motives should be mis-interpreted and actions mis-represented, and evil report should assail us, and these we must and do expect more or less, I trust we shall resignedly submit, and believe that they are chastenings we require. They may and ought to induce us closely to examine again what we have done, but if we are satisfied that our movements have been for the best, may we notwithstanding all that others may think, be enabled to persevere. In these sentiments I am quite persuaded thou wilt entirely concur; and I should not here have enlarged upon them so much had not some incidental remarks in connection with the Leeds excursion, and with the punishment of the little passionate boy on the day of the Committee induced me to fear that thy strong affection for us, made thee too sensitively alive to our reputation. It would have been far pleasanter to have liberated that poor child, than to have annoyed our friends and ourselves by enduring his passion till it

subsided; but any one will see that by so doing we should have strengthened him in sin and have yielded our authority and the discipline of the school to his refractoriness; the impression nevertheless was likely to be unfavourable, and we were, I doubt not, severely judged; but I should pursue the same course again if unhappily we were placed in similar painful circumstances.

CHAPTER III.

R. Pumphrey's failing health—Letter to his little girl on her breaking her arm—Religious Service in Dublin—R. Pumphrey's death—Letter from one of the Ackworth Masters relative to the decease of R. P.—Letters to his daughter at School—To his youngest daughter on her fifth birthday—To his daughter Anna—Religious Visit in the West Riding during the distress in the Manufacturing districts—Letters to his children.

In the following letter indications are seen of Rachel Pumphrey's failing health.

5th mo. 1840.

Much as I miss thy loved society, and glad as all of us would be to see thee back, I believe there is but one feeling in the family, that thou should do that which will be most beneficial to thy health. D. thinks thou mayst very satisfactorily remain; nothing appears to suffer, and I trust nothing will. We have in former years, had our difficulties and trials, in regard to the domestic arrangements of the family, but we have been brought through all, and I firmly believe that if, in simple dependence, we cast our care on Him, who we are

constrained to acknowledge, has cared, and does care for us, even for us, He will be graciously pleased to preserve, protect, help and sustain. This dependence does not induce negligence or indolence, but it induces a submission to those circumstances, in which He may permit us to be placed; and if I mistake not, thy present circumstances require, a leaving for a while much active exertion, for thy health's sake, and for the sake of all dependent upon thee.

Think of us, my beloved, in thy most favoured moments, and may He who begets the exercise, accept it, hear thy prayers and regard thy tears, on behalf of thy beloved children and husband, for the sake of his dear Son, is the present prayer of

Thy tenderly attached THOMAS.

TO * * * * *

6th mo. 1840.

On Fourth-day H. B. formed a party to Went Vale, and being particularly desirous of my accompanying them, I acceded, though I find my relish for such things has undergone a great change since I came to Ackworth. I used to have great pleasure in such excursions, and I still think, under proper restraint, they are,

for young people at least, profitable both for body and mind. We took the market cart, and in returning all but three occupied it. The weather, except two or three passing showers, which rather added to the variety and amusement, was very favourable. We took tea in the plantations, near the game-keeper's lodge, and much enjoyed our meal and our excursion; it is quite beautiful scenery.

On Went Hill we lay on the grass, and read and recited some appropriate pieces. My mind at times during the jaunt, was sweetly solemnized, and secret aspirations were offered for these interesting young people's best welfare, and in looking back I felt thankful, not only that we had been preserved from injury and evil, but that we had been, in the midst of innocent recreation, favoured, at seasons, with a sense of heavenly regard.

TO ONE OF HIS CHILDREN NOT QUITE EIGHT YEARS OLD, WHEN AT SCARBRO' WITH HIS SISTER.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 22, 1840.

My dear little Boy,

J. W. returned home last evening and brought a nice account of precious little Polly, for which we ought all to be very thankful to

our heavenly Father, who thou knows, alone can give us health and preserve us alive; for "in Him we live and move and have our being." I hope my dear Thomas tries to remember this, and every day endeavours to raise his little heart in gratitude to the Almighty for his numberless mercies. Try my love to think of some of these, and when thou comes home perhaps thou wilt be able to tell me a few of them.

We are glad to hear thou hast been trying to be a good boy, and hast not given a great deal of trouble: and I hope thou hast endeavoured to please poor little Mary when she was unwell and not able to go out. I should very much like to see you both busy on the sands making mountains and castles and rivers, and I do not know what beside.

I often fancy I see you looking so merry and happy, and seem to hear Polly's pretty prattle. We hope soon to learn that she is really "ebby em" again. Give her some very sweet kisses from papa and mamma, and tell her that although we have got on without her pretty well, we shall be very glad to see you all back again. We like to receive thy little letters,

and it is a nice employment for thee when thou canst not go out.

Dear mother is often poorly, she unites with me in dear love to you both.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

Evesham, 6th mo. 9, 1841.

I am obliged, my dear girl, for thy nice letters, and am very glad thou spent so happy a birth-day. What a great many kind friends thou hast. I do not think there is another little girl in the village that has so many, or that is so kindly cared for. Cakes and books, and pictures and money, and presents of every kind on my little girl's birth-day. Well, I do hope thou art trying to love such kind friends and endeavouring every day to please them, by being a good little girl. Who is it that gives my Mary such kind friends, and makes them love her so, and take such good care of her, and teach her what is right and good? Can she tell me? and can she tell me how she should show her love to Him who does all this, and a great many things besides for her? I was much pleased that thou gave ——

some of thy cake; she has no papa or mamma to love her, or many kind friends to take care of her, and she is a long way from her dear home—but she too has One kind Friend, who if she loves Him will always care for her—One dear Saviour who will never forsake her. Who is this?

And so thou likes the pretty pictures of animals which I sent thee. I am glad of it and shall be much pleased to receive the promised kisses. Give my love to Mary Ann, I hope she is quite well. Dear brothers are very well and very happy. Many kisses and much love for my dear Polly,

From her affectionate Papa.

In the year 1841, Thomas Pumphrey obtained a Minute from his Monthly Meeting for religious service in Dublin, during the holding of the Yearly Meeting.

Sandford Hill, near Dublin,
4th mo. 27, 1841.

My dearest Rachel,

Thy letter, which was put into my hand soon after I had posted my last to thee, has introduced me into a feeling of much concern

for thee and our sweet little darling. For much anxiety I trust there is now no cause. Give papa's dear love and many kisses to Polly and tell her I am so glad she bore the doctor's setting her arm like a little woman, and that I am so thankful to her kind heavenly Father, that she has not a great deal of pain, and that it is likely so soon to be well.

I am very thankful that thou appears to have been preserved so calm under it, and that thou hast suffered so little in thy health from the circumstance.

I trust, if consistent with the divine will, you may be spared other causes of anxiety, and that this evening thou wilt be comforted in the company of thy dear parents. How singular it is that this is the second fracture occurring immediately after my leaving home on these engagements, and how seldom have I been absent without your anxieties being specially and powerfully excited. Wherefore it is thus we cannot fully understand, but in the belief that I came not hither in my own will, but in obedience to the will of Him whom we desire above all things to serve, and in the feeling that our ways are ordered of the Lord, and that we are all in his holy and all-wise keeping, I desire

to seek for increasing faith and confidence in Him, that I may be enabled to say in reverence and holy fear, "Though thou slay me, yet will I trust in thee."

Dublin, 4th mo. 28, 1841.

My very dear little Girl,

Papa has been so sorry to hear of his precious little girl falling down and breaking her arm, so that now she cannot use it. Thou knows, my darling, that it was thy kind heavenly Father that made that wonderful little arm, and put the bone in it so cleverly that my Polly could move it about and do a great many nice things with it: if He had put a broken bone into it, she could not have played with it, but it would have been obliged, as it is now, to be bound up so tightly and carried in a sling. Mamma can tell Polly that when an arm af the chair is broken, the joiner mends it with glue and nails to make it strong again: but now her arm is broken, we cannot get at the bone to mend it. The doctor just puts it into its place, and ties it up tightly to keep it there, and the good God does all the rest. He makes some new bone and he joins it altogether again, and makes it so strong, and very soon we hope our

little girl will be no longer obliged to feed herself with her left hand. If she asks dear grandpapa, he can tell her about a little boy who had no hand at all, and he was obliged to use his teeth instead of hands; was not that clever. I dare say Polly's arm itches a good deal; it will be sure to do that while the Good Being is joining the broken bone together again, so that she will try, I think, to bear it patiently. Mamma tells me what a little woman she was when W. Clark pulled her poor arm into its place again, and that she has been a very good little girl since; so that all love her still more dearly.

Tell mamma to give her six sweet kisses—Irish kisses, sent all over the sea, for little Polly. I have seen such a great many little girls here without shoes or stockings or bonnets, so dirty and so ragged that it has made papa quite sorrowful. I am sure they are not washed and combed and dressed every morning like little M. C.; and then they are not taught to be good and to love their heavenly Father and Jesus that loves them so. How thankful Polly should be that she is taken such nice care of. Give papa's love to grandpapa and grandmamma, and grandpapa Pumphrey desires his

dear love too, and we both desire dear love to sister Anna and to little brothers, and to my very dear little Polly. Papa has got up early to write this letter, and he means to seal it with wax, and he hopes it will please his darling; but he is obliged to leave now, so he must say farewell, and say he is her

Very affectionate Papa,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Dublin, 5th mo. 3, 1841.

My beloved Rachel,

I take up my pen for the last time to address thee from this land, and I do so with feelings of reverent thankfulness, in that help has been from day to day mercifully afforded, both to unite in secret exercise with the living members in this land, and to labour in word and doctrine according to my measure in renewed qualification from Him who puts forth and goes before his feeble servants.

In the evening Meeting in Dublin, several Friends spoke acceptably. I was engaged towards the middle of the meeting time, quoting a part of the first Psalm, dwelling on the danger of those who sat in the seat of the scorner; and in quoting from the 139th Psalm

the words "if I make my bed in hell," &c. I was arrested by the apprehension that there were those present who might be said to be doing so, and I was led on in a strain which made me tremble, in very awful expostulation and earnest pleading with such. A. P.'s communication had been, I afterwards remembered, addressed to a somewhat similar state. S. S. followed in a remarkable confirmation of the testimony, being evidently, as she proceeded, diverted from the subject with which she rose. When I sat down I felt sorely distressed, and was led closely to examine whether I had been led aside by any creaturely fervour, but felt peace in the belief I had been enabled to be faithful in the service appointed me.

TO HIS FATHER.

5th mo. 24, 1841.

The retrospect of my late engagement continues to feel very peaceful and satisfactory, and I thought the renewed ability which was given me to labour amongst my friends here, in returning my minute, was a fresh evidence that my gracious Master had owned and accepted the services, which I trust He had Himself prepared. It is often my lot to be many weeks

together without my mouth being opened in the ministry, except in the school family, but since my return I have far more frequently been so engaged. I desire to be preserved in watchfulness lest the great enemy should gain any advantage over me, during this season of comparative liberty and fruitfulness in the field of offering, and that if, as will probably be the case, I have again to sit as with my mouth in the dust, it may be in cheerful acquiescence to the will of my heavenly Father.

TO HIS ELDEST SON.

Ackworth School, 9th mo. 8, 1841.

My dear George,

We are glad to find by a letter to-day from your kind aunt E., that you are enjoying yourselves at Cullercoats; you will have had a fine opportunity of seeing the sea in its grandeur, and I hope you will have cherished feelings of thankfulness to your heavenly Father, for the mercies you are enjoying, and for the preservation from danger which is extended to you, while so many are exposed to perils by sea and land, in order to procure the comforts and necessaries of life for us. Endeavour, my dear, to have thy eyes open to

observe the various new objects which are now spread before thee, as it may be long before thou hast another such opportunity, and it is our duty to store our minds with useful knowledge, both for our own sakes, and for the sake of others; but whilst we are thus diligent, how infinitely more important is it that with all our getting, we should get understanding, get heavenly wisdom, which alone is profitable to direct us through the dangerous paths of life, to that blessed inheritance, which, in adorable mercy, is prepared for those who love and serve God. Mayst thou, my dear child, early love thy Saviour, even with a perfect heart, and serve him faithfully with a willing mind; yielding to the tendering influences of his love shed abroad in thy heart, and making thee from time to time sensible how marvellous and how great that love to thee is, not only in what He did and suffered for thee when "He became a child like thee," and endured the agonies of a cruel death for thee; but in what he is still doing for thee, in restraining thee by his Spirit, in convincing thee of the wickedness of thy corrupt heart, and in creating desires in thee, that thou mayst be redeemed from sin, and become a lamb of his fold. Daily think of

these things, and ask thy heavenly Father to strengthen every good desire, and to blot out all thy transgressions for thy Saviour's sake.

With dear love in which thy dear mother unites,

I remain,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSEPH ROWNTREE.

Ackworth School, 12th mo. 24, 1841.

My dear Rachel has lost ground rapidly the last ten days, though for the last two or three she has slightly rallied again. The trial of separation, so long anticipated, seems drawing near—that however which above all things renders her so dear to me, and to all of us, is that which affords us the greatest consolation in the prospect of losing her; even the well-grounded hope and assurance of her acceptance in the beloved of her soul; even through the mercy of Him who has loved her with an everlasting love, and through whose grace she had been enabled to love and serve Him.

How wonderful and mysterious it is that we should have been sustained and comforted as we have, and carried through an accumulation

of trials and solicitudes, which could we have foreseen, would have overwhelmed.

Without presumption we may reverently and gratefully acknowledge that we have been helped from the sanctuary and strengthened out of Zion, and I cannot but believe that the prayers of many have helped us, having been accepted for the Saviour's sake.

After describing his wife's physical condition, Thomas Pumphrey writes to his father:

Ackworth School, 1st mo. 12, 1842.

The sweet, composed and confiding state of her mind, is exceedingly favourable to her lengthened continuance with us; though as her weakness increases her wish to depart and be with Christ, which she feels to be "far better" increases also. We see exemplified in her humble resignation to the divine will, the patient waiting till her change come. Whether it be that I am unable to realize the fact—whether the blessed hope that my precious children and myself will be cared for, when my best beloved on earth was gone, and the unfaltering assurance that she will be unspeakably

happy, sustains me above depression; or whether there is a want of natural feeling, (which at times, from the deadness which prevails, I am ready to fear,) I cannot say; but it is to me marvellous how I can look forward to the loss which I must soon experience, with so little emotion—sometimes indeed the feeling comes over me overpoweringly; but generally I am preserved in cheerfulness, and am strengthened from day to day to discharge my various duties in a way, that at times astonishes me. It is true we have abundant alleviations (I sometimes think, all that our circumstances admit of) in the state of dearest Rachel's mind; in outward accommodation; in kind attentive nurses and helpers; in the widely spread and tenderly expressed sympathy of my christian friends, and in the sustaining support of that merciful Arm which has been, and is still underneath in the most proving moments.

The following letter was written shortly after the death of his wife, addressed to his aunt, Mary Pumphrey, of Worcester. Her death occurred 1st mo. 20, 1842.*

* See Annual Monitor. New Series, No. 1. Anno 1843.

Ackworth School, 2nd mo. 19, 1842.

My dear Aunt,

I feel disposed this evening to address a few lines to thee; having often, since thy sweetly uniting visit, had my thoughts turned towards thee with a renewal (as to degree at least) of that filial affection, which, from my very boyhood, I have been wont to feel towards thee and dear uncle. Affliction is very much calculated to tighten the cords of love, and in your seasons of sorrow in days past when it was our privilege to do what we could to soothe with the balm of sympathy, we have found it so; and on the late solemn, but deeply interesting occasion, when thou mingled thy tears with mine and my precious children's, we again realized its cementing power. I am thankful in being enabled to say that I am still favoured with a measure of that gracious support and consolation, which, under the immediate pressure of the stroke which deprived me of my dearest earthly treasure, were so mercifully dispensed. Nevertheless I often painfully feel my solitariness, and increasingly the greatness of my loss; the sweet society and soothing attentions of dear —— and —— have done all that such influence could do to alleviate my

sorrow and cheer me; and I have experienced no little pleasure (chastened and often mournful, but quite in accordance with my present feelings,) in reading over a series of letters from my dear Rachel, commencing a few months previous to our marriage, and ranging over the whole period since: thus I have retraced the path we walked together, revisited scenes of past delights, awakened old associations, revived "buried memories" of joys and sorrows, and trials and discouragements, and hopes, and pleasures. Often have I seemed to realize my beloved Rachel's society, as if she were by my side in our snug parlour in Palace Row, and in our pleasant residence in Britannia Square; even conversations on subjects of mutual interest have been as it were again entered upon, and emotions and feelings have been once more called into existence, which had almost passed into oblivion. I am now going through a similar series, much more limited, addressed to E. C.; these letters are extremely valuable to me, because they so beautifully pourtray the character of my departed one. It is my desire that these thoughts may not unduly absorb my attention, and unfit me for my various duties. I am not sensible that they have had this effect

hitherto, but I feel there is rather a danger in writing to others of allowing this mournfully pleasing theme to engross too much of my correspondent's time.

The state of mind of all my dear children is at present encouraging. I know too well how frequently the fairest prospects in these respects are blasted, to allow of my indulging in too sanguine hopes; but I think we are warranted in taking encouragement when we may, and commending our precious charge renewedly to the protection of that gracious Father in heaven, without whose merciful regard, we know full well, the boar out of the wood will waste, and the wild beast of the field will devour, even the vine which He has planted, and the branch which He has made strong for Himself. With dear love to you all,

I am thy affectionate Nephew,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

LETTER TO ISABEL PUMPHREY FROM ONE OF THE TEACHERS AT ACKWORTH, RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF RACHEL PUMPHREY.

My dear Friend,

I herewith return thy letters, which I have read with the deepest interest, and for

which I am much obliged. That addressed to thyself after dear Thomas Pumphrey's bereavement has vividly recalled that period to my mind. I remember being much impressed one First-day evening Reading, with the spiritual conflict into which he was introduced. It was shortly previous to Rachel Pumphrey's death. There had already been three deaths within a comparatively short period among the scholars; there were trying circumstances connected with the boys' conduct. There was his own domestic affliction, and doubtless other causes which I knew nothing about; but in the reading I allude to, he seemed plunged into the deepest exercise. I never myself witnessed anything so like an agony of soul—his very body seemed to bow and to writhe in unison with his wrestling spirit. I, and most likely many others, thought he would prostrate himself on bended knees, and I still believe that vocal prayer would have relieved his agitated soul. But so it was not to be, he seemed withheld from vocal utterance; his public service appeared to consist, that evening, in being made "a spectacle unto men;" and judging from the impression made on my own mind, a more lasting effect for good

was thus produced than would have resulted from a more usual exercise.

I remember T. B. telling me a little of the first interview dear Thomas Pumphrey had with him after his wife's death. There was at first a time of much feeling, but soon recovering himself, he proceeded to give many interesting particulars respecting the last few hours and the closing scene. T. B.'s tenderest and most loving sympathy was stirred, and the mutual friendship which existed between them, received on that occasion no small accession of strength and brightness. I recollect too, that a day or two after the above, he had an interview with the junior teachers in the parlour. I remember how even then, in chastened playfulness, he adapted himself to our young and buoyant, though by no means thoughtless and unsympathizing minds. I was impressed with the expression of his countenance, restrained sorrow, chastened grief, christian resignation seemed to be depicted there. I am not, after the lapse of years, pourtraying mere ideas—my beloved friend's demeanour had in reality this effect upon my mind. On the occasion of Rachel Pumphrey's interment, there were, no doubt, various speakers,

but I can recal no one but the bereaved partner himself. In the meeting he bowed the knee in prayer, and it did powerfully affect my mind, that in his own great sorrow, he was enabled fervently to pray for us young people.

WRITTEN TO ANNA PUMPHREY ON FIRST GOING TO SCHOOL AT YORK, AND SHORTLY AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH.

Ackworth School, 4th mo. 4, 1842.

My beloved Anna,

Thou mayst be well assured that the cheerful accounts thou hast been able to send of thyself, and which we have received of thee from others, have been very acceptable to us; for although I did not doubt that thou wouldst settle comfortably, yet it is a satisfaction when our hopes are realized, and we know that those for whom we are anxiously concerned are as we should like them to be. And is it thus with regard to thee, my precious child? art thou bending "in right earnest" under thy Saviour's yoke, and desirous above all things of walking in the way of his commandments? Art thou seeking, earnestly seeking, to have an interest in Him who was thy precious mother's God and

Saviour; in whom thy dear father is enabled to trust for time and eternity.

Let thy heart cleave to Him; love to wait upon Him in reverent silence and humble dependence; pray to Him in the name of thy dear Saviour, through the power and in the ability which the Holy Spirit gives; cherish a tender conscience, fearing to offend God, or to grieve His Spirit; obey the teachings of His Spirit, and never slight His convictions. Thus wilt thou walk safely, and wilt be a comfort to thyself, and thy deeply interested friends.

Thy affectionate father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS SONS WHILST ON A VISIT AT WORCESTER.

Rowell Lodge, near Kettering,
5th mo. 12, 1842.

My dear little boys,

I hope you read your bibles every day seriously and quietly to yourselves, and in secret retirement before your heavenly Father, seek ability to pray acceptably to Him, asking the forgiveness of all you have done amiss, and His grace to preserve you for the future; think then of your dear father, the Lord will hear your little prayers, if they are sincere, even on his behalf.

Think often of your precious mother's counsel, and of that invaluable letter she left as a legacy to her children. I believe her prayers were often heard by Him to whom they were daily, and oftener than the day, raised on your behalf; may your self-will never cause them to be frustrated.

Your affectionate father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

93 London Wall, 5th mo. 21, 1842.

My beloved Anna,

Amidst the very close engagements of body and mind which press upon me during the sittings of the Yearly Meeting, my own precious children, and thou my endeared girl, are not forgotten by me.

The Meeting was yesterday introduced into a lively concern for the right training and religious education of the children of Friends, in the faithful maintenance of our christian testimonies, and in the simplicity and truth of the gospel of Christ. Greatly did I desire that I might as a parent be doing my duty towards my beloved offspring. Mayst thou my dear child be a simple-hearted obedient child of God, submitting to thy Saviour's yoke in thy early days, as did

thy most excellent mother, and yielding a cheerful and willing obedience to the gentle restraints and constraints of the Holy Spirit.

Think often of the maternal exercise on thy behalf, of her who though "dead yet speaketh," and remember that, he truly "mourns the Christian dead, who lives as they desired."

TO HIS LITTLE GIRL ON HER FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

Reading, 6th mo. 1, 1842.

My very dear little Daughter,

I remember that to-morrow will be thy birthday, when thou wilt be five years old. I hope thou wilt spend it very happily, and be a good little child as Samuel was. Perhaps he was only five years old when the Lord spoke to him, we don't know exactly, but we do know he was very young, and yet the Lord was so kind as to teach him, and He is pleased to teach my dear little Mary, so that she is unhappy when she does any thing wrong, and grieves Him, and so happy when she is trying with all her heart to love Him and to do what she knows to be right. I hope this letter will get to Ackworth on my Polly's birthday, to remind her of dear papa who is so far away, but who thinks of his little darling.

Thy dear mother is gone; we must try to think of her as very, very, very happy in heaven. No more pain, of which she had to suffer so much—no sorrow or trouble—no tears, but always happy in the presence of the good God and her precious Saviour. If we love Him, then we may hope that when we die, we shall go and live with dearest mamma for ever and ever.

And now, my little darling, I must send thee many kisses and much love, and tell thee once more that I am

Thy very affectionate Papa,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 1st mo. 19th, 1843.

My beloved Anna,

Thou wilt not need reminding that this is the anniversary of the last day of thy precious Mother's life, and that, in the morning of it, thy brothers and thou came to take a final farewell of this dear and excellent parent. My mind pictures the whole scene; and I am mentally, almost continually, in the dying room, sitting by her bedside, and with my dear companions in sorrow, Ellen and Isabel, watching the gradual flickering of the lamp of life as it

went out, to shine with unfailing and unfading brightness in heaven:—and I felt more than disposed to write to thee, my love, whilst again going over this solemn scene.

It has been at times overpowering, as I recurred to the severe sufferings of my dearest earthly friend, and of my and your inexpressible loss, in her removal from us; but notwithstanding there is sweetness in the retrospect, that makes me even enjoy dwelling upon it, to think of the state of preparation for blessedness to which thy dear mother had, through redeeming mercy, attained;—to reflect on her present state of happiness, and glory, and joy unspeakable;—to number the abundant favours which we have received, the support, the comfort, the loving-kindness and mercy; all these considerations unite to raise in the heart, the song of thanksgiving and praise. May it be evinced by each of us, by a life devoted to the Lord! and mayst thou, my dear girl, in thy very early days, offer a whole burnt sacrifice, even that of an undivided heart to God, thy God and thy parent's God.

Number thy blessings, for they are many, and remember from whom they flow, love retirement, be diligent in the private devotional

reading of thy Bible, make thyself acquainted with Friends' principles, cultivate a relish for reading the history of the Society and the biography of its members; thy dear mother used to say, it only required a little perseverance at first, to get accustomed to their quaint, old fashioned style, and then the excellence of the matter soon repaid the labour. The longer I live, the more I see to love and value in the principles of Friends; they are manifestly those of the New Testament.

Be faithful to thy convictions in the very least matter; it is a great privilege to know the Spirit to be a swift witness against evil, and this will not long be the case, if we stifle His voice, and turn a deaf ear to His reproofs. "In all thy ways acknowledge the Lord and he will direct thy steps."

Farewell my darling girl.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS ELDEST DAUGHTER.

Ackworth School, 4th mo. 6, 1843.

My dear Girl,

It is so long since I addressed thee that I scarcely know where to begin my budget

of news, but I think I have not written since my return from Highflatts. On that visit I was engaged about ten days; the service, though closely exercising, was very interesting, and we were brought into communication with some valuable Friends, both members and others, amongst the poor of this world. Some are very poor, but with only a few exceptions, remarkably clean; indeed some of the cottages were models of neatness and good order, the little stock of furniture beautifully bright, the white-washed walls really white, and the black leaded fire-place shining brilliantly; in almost every house was the rack of oat cake hanging over our heads. None of the houses have ceilings to the lower rooms, on account of the looms up stairs, which would in working shake down the plaster.

The subscriptions* commenced three months ago, for the relief of the poor, amount to £1,300, including £300 from Friends not in the Quarterly Meeting; several grants have been made and have afforded a large amount

* These subscriptions were raised for the relief of the distress in the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire, arising out of the depression of trade in the winter of 1842-3.

of very seasonable relief; £300 were sent to Sheffield and £300 to Leeds, £100 to Highflatts, &c.

At Sheffield the poor-rates are 8s. in the £. on the rack rent. At Leeds 20,000 persons are said to be dependent on casual relief. At Highflatts, a personal visit from house to house, whilst I was there, ascertained that out of a population of less than 8,000 of all classes, 2,000 including between 800 and 900 children were at that time out of employ; and 1,400 had only earned 1s. 3d. each per week for the preceding three months.

How thankful, my dear Anna, ought we to be, who have not only bread enough and to spare, but abundance of comforts, and even some luxuries, when we compare our lot with theirs. The poor about Colne and Burnley, Marsden, &c. are in a most lamentable state. That benevolent woman, Ann Ecroyd, who is a philanthropist of the highest order, is labouring night and day for their relief; and though with but a slender competency, she keeps three servants, whom she works hard, whilst not sparing herself, in seeking out the distressed, making herself acquainted with the real merits of the case, and relieving them. She has

numerous and large donations of money, food and clothing, old and new, sent her.

I recollect about fifteen years ago thy dear mother was a principal means of establishing the Worcester Sewing Meeting, the first object of which was to make garments for the poor in that district, to be placed at the disposal of Ann Ecroyd.

Farewell my beloved Anna; believe me

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 1843.

My dear little Polly,

To-morrow thou wilt, if thou shouldst live so long, be six years of age; but we should always remember that we do not know whether we shall live a single day. Two or three years before thou wast born, a little boy at this school got up at six o'clock in the morning quite well, soon became ill, and he died before breakfast; and thou rememberest that I told thee about another little boy who was killed in Ackworth, since thou went to Worcester, by the kick of a horse, and how there were the two little girls who were drowned just a year ago, and their mamma was nearly drowned, and their nurse-

maid. When we die, we shall either be happy for ever with the blessed Jesus, who died on the cross that we might be happy; or we shall be miserable and wretched for ever: so it ought to be our daily endeavour to love and fear God, to pray to Him to forgive us all the naughty things we have said or done, and to send His good Spirit into our hearts to teach us His will, and to enable us to do what He would be pleased with. Does my dear little girl think of these things every day, and try to pray to that kind heavenly Father, who has taken such kind care of her ever since she was quite a baby, and does she try to love that Saviour who loves her, for He loves little children dearly, and would bless them if they were willing to be taken into his arms and to follow Him in obedience? Thou loves thy dear grandpapa and aunt, who are so kind to thee, and wouldst be sorry I hope to grieve them; how much more shouldst thou be sorry to grieve or displease thy heavenly Father. How much I desire for all my dear children that they may be dear obedient children of their gracious Father in heaven.

Well, I am so pleased to think of thee on thy sixth birthday. I hope it will be a happy day,

there will be sweet kisses from many that love thee, and smiling faces perhaps from little playfellows; and if grandpapa is well enough, he will enjoy seeing his dear little grandchildren good and happy, but "if he's busy or unwell, you must not make a noise." I wonder what you will do to amuse yourselves, how I should like to be with you. Perhaps you will each repeat a nice little hymn or verse that you have learnt before you part: will Anna be of the party?

I have sent thee a very little book, it is not because I only love thee a very little, for that would not be true, (would it?) but because I cannot send much in a letter, and I wish to send something. Sarah Lidbetter was a good little Friend, and she died when she was a child, and I have no doubt is gone to heaven, and is very, very, very happy.

Farewell, my darling: for I expect soon to see thee, for I intend soon to come to fetch thee and dear Anna home, and if that be permitted, we shall be altogether again—all but very dear mamma, whom we shall never see again in this world; but we hope if we are good, we shall see her when we die, and be happy with her for ever.

Give my dear love to Anna, and to little cousins, and to uncle and aunts, and to grandpapa, and take a great deal thyself and many kisses, from

Thy very fond Papa,
THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS ELDEST SON JUST AFTER GOING TO YORK SCHOOL.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 10, 1843.

My beloved Boy,

It was very pleasant to me to observe thee and thy cousin settle down so cheerfully, and I hope you continue to do so. You will soon be applying yourselves steadily to school, when I trust diligence, attention, and cheerful obedience will mark your conduct, and obtain for you the love and regard of your teachers. My heart felt heavy in leaving you, especially thee, my dearest George, knowing that thou wilt find school, away from home, has its difficulties and trials, and my heart involuntarily breathed the prayer as I left the door, "God Almighty bless the lads." May He graciously condescend to preserve thee on every hand, grant thee a tender conscience, make thee of quick understanding in His fear, and enable

thee to render a willing obedience to the gentle teachings and leadings of His Holy Spirit.

We are all well and unite in love, very dear love to thee, my beloved boy.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 12, 1843.

My beloved Anna,

It is with great pleasure that I unite with our little band, in greeting thee with an affectionate salutation on thy birth-day.

Very fervent are my desires that it may be a day of profitable inquiry to thee; a day in which thou mayst be engaged seriously to ask thyself whether the year just past has been duly improved; whether thou hast properly availed thyself of thy numerous advantages for intellectual improvement, whether thou hast rightly occupied the talents entrusted to thee; and above all, whether thou hast made progress towards the heavenly inheritance. Let me press these considerations, my love, on thy serious attention; and may He who only can give counsel and might equal to our need, strengthen thee to make good resolves, and enable thee by His grace to perform them.

As thou wilt have so many letters to-morrow, thou wilt probably "hear all the news." But perhaps a very brief notice of our jaunt yesterday to Went Vale may interest thee. It was the first time I had been there for two years, and though the day was beautifully fine, and we were a cheerful, happy party, solemn thoughts of the change that had taken place since I was there before, repeatedly passed over me. We were fifteen altogether. I was struck with the great variety and beauty of the wild flowers, saw how much greater was the interest of those who knew their names and character, and wished I was a botanist; perhaps if dear Anna were diligently to apply herself to the study she might teach me in future years, if such should be allowed us.

When we got to the cottage in the wood we saw an object of great beauty, an infant fourteen months old, sweetly asleep in a small clothes basket, in an attitude that Wilkie would have rejoiced to see; it was most lovely. We were nicely accommodated, and we enjoyed our abundant meal greatly; the woods were very beautiful, and the views up and down the valley from several "Prospect Points"

were very fine. I have seldom enjoyed a jaunt more.

Thy affectionate Father,
THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 9th mo. 17, 1843.

My dear George,

The reports which have reached me of thee, my dear boy, have been a great comfort to me, because I think they indicate an endeavour to do what thou knows to be right. I desire to encourage thee to persevere, never being satisfied with that whereto thou mayst have attained, but still in the fear of the Lord, and in humble dependence upon His good Spirit, pressing onwards. I trust thou art diligent in the daily private reading of thy Bible, remembering the example of thy pious mother when she was a school girl; what an instructive lesson of filial obedience, and of divine fear has she left behind her for us all. Give my love to thy dear cousins, one and all, also to thy companion. I hope you encourage one another in what is right, and never attempt to sneer at conscientious conduct,—how fearful a place is the seat of the scorner! Though I know thou wilt have felt

satisfaction, in that thy conduct has met with the approval of thy teachers, yet "be not high-minded but fear;" be strict in self-examination, bring thy deeds to the light that they may be made manifest what they are, and that all that are evil in the infinitely holy sight of God may be reproved. In His sight, thou wilt not be justified, but wilt have cause to be humbled in the view of thy transgressions; but then how consoling the assurance that to the penitent sinner there is forgiveness with God, that he may be feared, even for Christ's sake.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER IV.

Improvements at Ackworth—Gas Works erected—Sanitary Statistics—Contrast with the condition of the Foundling Hospital—Visitations of Fever.—Nurseries built—New Dining-room for the girls—Reading-room fitted up—T. Pumphrey's Lectures—Letters to his son G. at School—to his daughter—to his youngest son—to G. on leaving School.

Many of the preceding letters exhibit Thomas Pumphrey as the loving husband and the affectionate father, deeply concerned above all things that his children might, in their earliest years, know, and love, and follow, and serve their Saviour. If we appear to have selected largely we think that a striking and instructive variety of thought and feeling is manifest in those which we offer to the reader. The talent possessed by Thomas Pumphrey of presenting religious truth in ever varying and extremely simple forms, adapted to interest and attract, even very young children, is displayed in these

letters, and will be our apology if we should appear to have introduced too many.

We may now occupy a little time in tracing the progress of improvement in the material arrangements at Ackworth School, as heralding, accompanying, or aiding in intellectual, moral, and religious progress. We have already noticed the beneficial changes begun in the year 1816, relative to Scripture instruction, promoted by Joseph John Gurney. From that date till the year 1837 we have no record of any important changes or reforms. For more than a quarter of a century gas had been making its way into our streets, houses, factories, parlours, and drawing rooms. The following sketch, by one of the Masters, will enable us to estimate the condition of Ackworth School in regard to the all important agency of light, in the year 1836.

Throughout the premises a few oil lamps lend a most miserable light. The long passage looks like a tunnel with darkness visible. A boy at the far end of the play-room, locally called the shed—an open piazza

supported by stone pillars—is seen only in shadowy outline. At the supper-table, in the winter evening, it is well, that by natural instinct, the poor children know the way to their mouths in the dim twilight. In the afternoons of the short days two oil lamps to each school-room were not equal to the exigences even of young eyes, and the school exercises were adapted to the diminished light. Slates were laid aside and class lessons, exercising the memory, with less need of the agency of the eyes, were substituted. In the bed-room, one solitary, flickering dip, was visible amidst the gloom. The favour which darkness affords to illegal frolics, and the hindrance it places in the way of various useful and pleasant modes of occupying the brief leisure of the evening, could not but be serious disadvantages to moral and intellectual improvement. "These," says one of the Masters, reviewing this period, "were the dark days of Ackworth School." But the days of material darkness were numbered, and fast drawing to a close. In 1838 gas-works were erected by a volun-

tary subscription of £100. This was unsolicited by the Committee, but freely offered for the work. Thomas Pumphrey thus alludes to the event, "When we are enjoying our winter evenings, let us gratefully remember the honoured friends who originated this important improvement—George Richardson and Joseph John Gurney. The latter, replying to the suggestion of his venerable friend, said, 'it must be done: I will give £50 and Sam shall give £50,' (thus in all the confidence of brotherly love referring to his generous hearted brother, Samuel Gurney, the treasurer of the school.) "Semi-darkness," observes the Master already quoted, gave way to brilliant light; and even mental light has been increased by the change." The progress of improvement was thus inaugurated.

Contrasted with the history of the Foundling Hospital, which preceded Ackworth School, the annals of the school present an almost incredible contrast in regard to the sanitary statistics. We are told that a governor of the extinct Hospital, Sir Rowland

Winn, visiting the school soon after its opening, found the boys at dinner: and observing their healthy, happy faces, his feelings were overpowered; he was affected to tears, and exclaimed "why could not we have our children as healthy as these." In 1853, when the school completed its 74th year, and 7385 scholars had entered its walls, being an average of about 100 per annum, the total deaths had been 76, or one in three hundred per annum from the day of its opening. In one quarter of a single year thirty-three of the poor foundlings perished in the visitation of an epidemic. It is true that the foundlings were introduced probably soon after birth, and had to pass through the perilous years of infancy. We must also, on the other hand, bear in mind that for the first fifty years of Ackworth School, children having once entered its cloistered walls, were not permitted to leave till the end of their term, however extended that might be. We shall have to notice in the progress of improvement, a proposal for an annual vacation :—of that, in its place and time.

To revert to the subject of health. The school had not been without its severe visitations of illness. In 1803, scarlet fever of a very malignant character broke out, and for six or seven months extended its ravages far and wide; about 200 inmates of the family were affected by it, and seven of the children died. In 1824, 1828, and again in the winter of 1830-31 typhoid fever prevailed. In the first of these visitations, one of the teachers and two children died; in that of 1828, three children, and two adult members of the family,—one of whom was the lamented Henry Brady,—fell under the disease; and in the last, three more children. In 1841, Scarlatina appeared again, attended with fatal results to three children. These occurrences were not without their influence in promoting a series of measures for the enlargement of rooms, for the removal of old buildings and offices, and for general attention to drainage, ventilation, and warming.

In 1824 a suite of rooms was built over the great kitchen and appropriated as nurseries for the sick. From that time till 1842 not

much enlargement of the buildings took place. In that year, a new dining room was built for the girls, in immediate connexion with their own wing. Their old dining room was converted into a reading and lecture room. A platform was erected at one end of this room, in front of which the children's seats gradually rise to the further extremity. It is well adapted for seeing and hearing, and when the whole family are collected together in this apartment, on First day evenings for scripture reading and evening worship, the fair faces of nearly three hundred children, rising tier above tier, very many bearing the marks of serious thoughtfulness, the scene is one of thrilling interest. Here, often on this platform, fronting this youthful audience, Thomas Pumphrey has stood, and in words full of power and love, aroused even the thoughtless ones to earnest and fixed attention, and confirmed and comforted many in whose hearts the love of Christ their Saviour, had dawned.

Ackworth scholars now in the prime of life may recall the extraordinary scene witnessed

in the olden time, every first day evening, between six and seven o'clock, when, amidst noise and clatter indescribable, the boys dining room was metamorphosed into a reading room; a platform constructed, the tables removed to the far end, the boy's forms arranged on the window side of the upper part of the room, and the forms from the girl's dining room, brought in, and placed at the opposite side, leaving an avenue down the middle. And before retiring to bed, a small detachment of boys restored the room to its usual aspect. The new facilities for united gatherings have not been thrown away. Lectures to the children of both sexes, delivered by the Masters, and occasionally by professional Lecturers, have greatly increased in frequency, and added largely to the means of mental culture. Not unfrequently Thomas Pumphrey appeared in this capacity. His lectures on Pneumatics, Hydrostatics and Optics, on the Mines and Natural Characteristics of Cornwall; on the Sperm Whale, and the Whale Fishery; and on the Great

Exhibition of 1851, will be remembered by many of our readers.

We now resume the series of letters addressed chiefly to his children at school, removed from immediate parental care.

Ackworth School, 11th mo. 27, 1843.

My dear George,

I am much obliged to thee for the interesting particulars contained in thy last respecting thy studies; they were in the main very satisfactory. J. F. had written to me on business the day before, and had kindly entered into a number of minute details in regard to thy progress and attainments, which were to me extremely interesting, and very gratifying; but what comforted me, as well as pleased, was the report he gave of thy uniform good conduct. Perhaps a faithful self-examination would have made thee sensible thyself of many deficiencies even in regard to thy conduct to thy teachers and companions, and in the consideration of the purity and holiness of the divine law, how much, my dear boy, is there to abase, and to cause blushing and confusion of face. How greatly do the best of us require

the daily prayer to be offered, "Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me." "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer!" Continue, my beloved boy to walk in the holy fear of God; be ever tender of the gentle restraints and monitions of the Spirit of Christ, in thy heart, even though an obedience to them should make thee appear as a fool in the sight of thy school-fellows, and should lead thee in a very narrow path. Seek opportunity daily for retirement and the private reading of thy Bible, and then I fear not but thou wilt find the God of thy parents to be thy God, their Saviour, thy Saviour, and the prayers of thy sainted mother, as well as mine will be answered.

J. F. says thy companions are entirely to his satisfaction. Now you may in the first place strengthen each other's hands, and then your influence beyond your own little circle will be the more powerful. Love thy teachers and care-takers, and reciprocate their kindness and labour, by a uniformly obliging and attentive demeanour. With much love,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 12 mo. 13, 1843.

My dear George,

Thou wilt have felt in common with us all, that the death of thy dear grandfather is a great loss indeed. How great I believe, none of us know. To me he has been from my earliest infancy to the present day, a tender, watchful, judicious parent, and many are the letters which I possess of his, which evince his pious concern for my religious welfare, and for my preservation and establishment in the truth. You, my dear children have lost a most affectionate and kind friend; one who could enter into your pleasures as if he was himself a child, and who, when he was in the company of children, was always ready in devising little innocent and profitable schemes for their enjoyment. His death was at last awfully sudden, and yet there was not a great deal to excite awe, for he passed gently and tranquilly away, and when his redeemed spirit had taken its flight, the mortal tabernacle that was left behind, looked as if it was wrapped in a sweet and peaceful slumber.

Truly it was a sweet sleep, for he slept in Jesus, and those who sleep in Jesus, when He appeareth, will He bring with Him, and they shall behold His glory, and His name shall be

written in their foreheads. Of the few relations whom thou hast known, who have been taken from thee, how sweet it is and how animating to feel the undoubting belief that they are all in Heaven. First, thy dear Uncle Isaac, then thy ever precious Mother, then thy Aunt Rebecca, and now thy venerated and beloved Grandfather. A blessed company of glorified spirits, with whom my spirit delights to associate; may I, and all my dear children, and all who are near and dear to me, follow on in their footsteps, that, eventually, we may partake in their glorious reward.

With much love

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 5 mo. 7, 1844.

My dear Anna,

I believe I have not written to thee since we parted, and therefore incline to scribble a few lines to dispel any doubts which, by bare possibility, may have arisen in thy mind as to our remembrance of thee. Indeed my dear we often think and speak of thee and look forward with much pleasure to thy return home from

school and being once more a member of my own parlour circle.

I must not however conceal from thee that many thoughts of an anxious kind arise, regarding the care and direction which thou wilt still require, and which there is none to give as thy beloved mother would have given; she foresaw this on her death-bed: she knew how girls feel when they leave school, how disposed they are to claim liberty, and to get into loose, desultory habits, having no fixed object or steady pursuit. I believe thou art conscientiously desirous of fulfilling her wishes as well as mine; but it will not be reasonable to expect thou wilt not have to contend with the same struggles that girls generally have.

I am desirous that thou shouldst become if thy life be spared, a really useful and respectable woman in the sphere in which thou mayst be called to move, not a mere lady, but (I cannot express myself better than by saying) the very representative of thy mother's domestic and social virtues.

I hope thou wilt continue to cultivate thy mind and pursue thy studies, and this I think thou mayest do very pleasantly in conjunction with our apprentices who are steady intelligent

young women, with whom thou might feel it a privilege to associate; perhaps this may be systematically arranged. But I do not want thee to be only intellectual. It is the duty of females to minister to our grosser necessities, and the sewing and cutting out, the cooking and cleaning are legitimately within their province, and so far from its being a degradation thoroughly to understand these domestic arts, it is a woman's reproach if she knows them not.

The evenings I hope we may often be able to enjoy together in reading or study. Yet wisdom is the principal thing, therefore with all thy getting, get understanding; the fear of the Lord that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding. Oh! mayst thou be truly wise, be often found lowly and teachable, sitting at the feet of Jesus, walking in His cross-bearing path, and following Him in the way of His gracious leadings. Read thy dear mother's letter to thee (one found in her private drawer after her death), and ponder it well; it was her last will and testament, in which she left thee her maternal prayers and solicitudes, and appointed thee her executor; be faithful to thy trust. I am

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

To ********.

11th mo. 5, 1844.

Since the loss of my best beloved my heart has found much more of enjoyment in sympathising with sorrow, than in more lively sources of pleasure. I find my mind is considerably chastened and sobered; though still my natural buoyancy carries me at times beyond my discretion. The sweet memorial of dear cousin J.'s watchfulness, humility and lively exercise of spirit, which the few pages of diary she has left behind afford, are from time to time revived in my remembrance with fresh instruction. "Truly the memory of the just is blessed," for it is an instrument in the divine hand of stimulating the slow-footed pilgrim on his journey, and of animating with fresh energy to press forward towards the mark, which they have attained. It is not well to let the retrospect be unduly sorrowful; when this is its tendency, it is profitable to lift the veil as far as we are mercifully allowed to do, and though still only permitted to look through the glass darkly, we may yet catch a glimpse of the glory and some faint vibrations of the music of the heavenly harps. For the last few years this has often been my privilege, unworthy as I am, it

has not been mere poetry and imagination, but a measure of communion with glorified spirits, of which the soul in its better moments is mercifully permitted to partake.

I trust you will be thus privileged as you spend the quiet winter evenings together, and talk of those who are "not lost but gone before." "Now this is converse," and such as you may profitably and even cheerfully indulge in. Selfish sorrow will at times intrude itself, and that will doubtless be bitter; but true christian sorrow, for those who have triumphed through grace, is perfectly compatible with "always rejoicing."

Ours admits of "the joy of grief;" we are enabled to extract consolation from the various causes of our sorrow, and that which enhances the trial, (the loveliness of the christian character of those who are taken from us) as that which, giving us hope in the end, furnishes us with the most powerful mitigation.

TO HIS YOUNGEST SON RECENTLY PLACED AT YORK SCHOOL.

Ackworth School, 12th mo. 31, 1844.

I was much pleased with thy early attention in writing to me, and particularly

gratified with the cheerful and contented tone of the letter. Thou hast indeed everything to render thee comfortable and happy, and it would be very wrong under such circumstances to cherish murmuring dispositions, but it would not have been surprising if on entering an entirely new sphere, thou hadst felt rather dull and depressed.

Thou wilt probably meet with little rebuffs and trials, which, if they are borne patiently and cheerfully, tend to strengthen our minds and improve our dispositions; but if they are met with peevishness and repining, they sour our tempers and make us unpleasant to ourselves and others. However I think thou and thy brother are favoured with naturally happy tempers, which is a great favour, and when these come under the influence of religious feeling, they are rendered very useful in many ways.

I feel particularly anxious that your conduct in the chambers should be orderly. I do not object to your talking, if the rules of the school allow it; but remember what cousin J. U. used to say to her sister, "It is time to leave off talking and think how to be good." Truly it is an excellent practice to review the day before

closing the eyes in sleep, and seek for ability to commend ourselves by prayer to "our Father in heaven." Love this Father, love your Saviour my dear and precious boys, and may He protect and keep you, is the prayer of

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 2nd mo. 12, 1845.

My dear Boys,

Remember my dears the excellent sentiment of your beloved and pious mother expressed in that invaluable letter to Anna and to you all, which you may regard as her legacy to you, "Acknowledge God in all your enjoyments," or, "How greatly our pleasures are increased by acknowledging the divine finger in them all." I do not distinctly remember the words.

You have been often in my thoughts lately, on First day very particularly, with my fervent desire that you might not be satisfied with orderly conduct and amiable manners, but that you might be really concerned to walk in the Lord's holy fear, seeking to know for yourselves that Christ is your Saviour. Oh! how many times have you sinned against Him: may you

feel the burden of this, and then you will flee to him for pardon and mercy. To them that believe Christ is precious—infinitely precious.

I was glad to hear of your success at the Society of Arts Exhibition. Persevere, be satisfied with nothing short of the highest excellence you are capable of obtaining by all lawful means. Farewell my beloved children.

In much love,

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

To ******.

4th mo. 23, 1845.

I was a little encouraged on First and Second days to hope that things were not materially out of their proper places, by the liveliness of exercise in which my mind was preserved during much of each day both in and out of Meeting.

It has always been a fearful thing with me, and manifests the weakness of my faith, still, to rise up in Meeting with only a few words before me, being unable to see anything to which they will lead. Thus it was with me on Second-day, and, as it has I think, almost always been when I have exercised the measure of

faith received; so it was then, I was enabled to minister in rather an unusual degree of Gospel authority, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." The Saviour's nearness and regard, even before any ministerial help is extended, when we may be waiting on the Lord or engaged in our ordinary occupations were dwelt upon; the powerful effect of the revelation of the Saviour to our souls in convincing us beyond all controversy of his divine power and Godhead, dispelling all doubts as to whether any good thing could come out of Nazareth; the importance of a faithful obedience to the injunction "Come and see," and the enlargement of our spiritual understandings as this obedience is rendered, "Thou shalt see greater things than these," &c. &c.

ON LEAVING YORK SCHOOL.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 13, 1845.

My dear George,

I have been able to communicate with you in this way of late much less frequently than I like; but as the time for thy finally leaving school is now drawing very near, I incline to convey to thee, my beloved

boy, the expression of a father's love on the occasion. It has been a great comfort to me to receive from first to last, pleasant accounts of thy progress and conduct. During the past three years and a half the satisfactory behaviour of all my dear children, has cheered and solaced my solitary path, and has been a rich reward for all my parental anxieties. I trust, my dear, that this orderly walking has been the result of keeping in the fear of thy heavenly Father, and that grace has preserved thee therein; but how much are all of you indebted to the pious care of your excellent mother, whose counsel, example, influence and restraints were all directed to the attainment of the great end of your existence, i. e. the honour of God and the salvation of your souls. How many and fervent were her prayers and tears poured forth on behalf of her offspring! Oh! may your waywardness never frustrate them; but remembering your own weakness, may you continually flee to the Strong for strength, and pray to Him for grace and preservation, and may none of you ever be satisfied without an experimental knowing of Christ for yourselves. Christ within, the hope of glory, ruling in your hearts, subjecting your desires, and giving you to feel you are not your own, but are bound to deny your-

selves for the sake of Him who bought you. And for thee, my dear George, about to enter upon new scenes and new temptations, my whole soul craves thy preservation from the power of the enemy. When thou gets into the cares of business, do not let them absorb thee; be diligent in performing thy duties faithfully to thy master, not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Let me intreat thee to begin and to persevere in the excellent practice of reading daily in the most private apartment to which thou art allowed access, a portion of thy Bible, and afterwards endeavour to draw near to God in inward retirement; and thus will thy heart be opened before thee; thou wilt see thy need, and the prayer of faith will be raised to thy God for help and strength, for pardon and grace, for all thy supplies. In thy sorrow He will comfort thee, in thy temptations He will preserve thee, in thy difficulties and trials He will help thee, and under every circumstance He will be thy present Friend. Read from time to time thy beloved Mother's letter to Anna; it is addressed to you all, and is a beautiful and most instructive evidence and outpouring of a mother's love.

Thine affectionately,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER V.

Vacations granted occasionally—Circulars issued—Replies not encouraging—The experiment of a General Vacation in the Seventh month 1847—General joy—The experiment reported successful—Annual Vacations instituted—Letters on the subject—Alterations in the buildings begun—Letter to his son on his apprenticeship—Thomas Pumphrey's Second Marriage—Wedding Tour—Religious service in Scotland—Visit to Ury—Strange Contrasts—Letters to his children.

The first general vacation for the whole school took place on the 23rd of 7th month, 1847. For several years previous to this, vacations had been allowed, on application from their parents to the Committee, to children who had been at school two years. The privilege became more and more used. In 1843 twenty-four children enjoyed it, and in 1846, fifty-nine. The results of this permission were reported annually to the Committee. Some disadvantages were apparent, such as a degree of unsettlement on return, the introduction of unsuitable books, &c. On the other hand, Thomas Pumphrey uniformly states that the benefits to the

children from the privilege were predominant and permanent.

In 1845, circulars were issued by the Committee, directing the agents to ascertain the wishes of the parents in regard to an annual vacation. The result of this inquiry was not very encouraging: nevertheless the Committee resolved to try the experiment. Thomas Pumphrey was a warm advocate of the measure, and in advance of many of his friends. Few events in the annals of time-honoured institutions have produced more lively joy than that which swelled the hearts of three hundred children of Ackworth School on the lovely sun-bright morning of Third-day, the 23rd of the Seventh month, 1847. Though their spirits were up in an extraordinary degree, says one of their masters (at "spirits boil," on the psychological thermometer, we may suppose), yet wisely restraining their exuberant joy by the knowledge that it was but an experiment, and that its success depended in some measure upon themselves, their conduct was reported as very satisfactory. One of

the masters thus sketches this memorable morning:

"A vacation; what does that word of music include! all the joy of anticipation, the pleasure of preparing, the ride in the tilted wagons, the rapid transit by rail, the arrival at home, sweet Home, the affectionate parental embrace, the delightful mingling with brothers and sisters, a whole month of joyousness and visits, excursions and freedom! Nor are these all, there is the softening of the heart, the stirring up of love, the strengthening of the ties of family affection, the mellowing influence of home upon the school-boy character, and unnumbered drops of maternal tenderness, distilling upon the soul like the dews of heaven."

All the numerous and intricate arrangements for this new event in the history of Ackworth, were worked out by Thomas Pumphrey with great method and skill, and remain substantially the same to the present time. Those who knew him, will readily imagine his lively, warm-hearted sympathy with his young friends on this joyous occasion.

The writer to whom we are indebted for the preceding, thus expresses his conviction of the favourable results to the school of this innovation.

"With all the advantages in favour of the school-boy of the present day, compared with the past, has he himself correspondingly advanced? We believe, to a large extent, he has. There is, in a fair type of the present Ackworth school-boy, more of gentleness and frankness, more of friendly communion with his teachers, more healthy fraternity with his comrades, more love for the old establishment, greater expansion of mind and a higher intellectual and moral tone."

Report was made to the Committee that the result of this first vacation was very satisfactory. Another vacation was granted in 1848, and in the Seventh month 1849, the Committee enter on their minutes "the results of the vacation of 1848 having been reported as highly favourable, it is concluded to recommend to the General Meeting the adoption of an

annual vacation." The recommendation became statute law.

The following letter to his cousin conveys Thomas Pumphrey's views on the expediency of continuing the annual vacation.

TO ANN PUMPHREY.

8th mo. 16, 1845.

I was pleased to find that thou hadst much enjoyed the vacation and the manner in which it was spent. It seems likely that those who occupy posts in this Institution two years hence, will be permitted the same privileges and cares: for it is pretty certain that the enjoyment must first be purchased at the cost of much labour and anxiety to those who have the carrying out of the details. It has not come upon me suddenly: my mind has been preparing for it for two years past: and I have seen that whatever might be the difficulties attendant on it, they must be fairly met and grappled with; and indeed that from the interruptions which the facilities for travelling by inducing so many visits from the children's friends occasion, and by the great increase in the demand for vacations as at present granted, the

balance on the mere score of expediency was rapidly equalising, so that labour and unsettlement in our present arrangements soon bid fair to outlive those which will be provided by a general vacation when a good system is established. Of the abstract benefit of vacations I have long held a decidedly favourable opinion, and have promoted their allowance on our present plan, ever since I came to Ackworth; but I cannot conceal from myself or friends, that in making so great a change in arrangements which have been formed on the principle of continuous school, and which have been for nearly 70 years interlacing and involving themselves into a complete web, very great difficulties will arise; when these are once mastered, I see not but that a system may be established which will work with comparative ease.

North Shields, 9th mo. 6 1845.

My dear George,

A fortnight has nearly elapsed since thou entered on thy new vocation; by this time thou art beginning to feel thyself a Grocer. In commencing thy career, for (how humble soever thy duties may be for a while) it is really the first step in business which thou art taking,

mayst thou continually remember that it is in the active engagements of life that the beauty and consistency of the Christian character is to be exemplified. Both thy dear Grandfathers have been in their day bright illustrations of the "Power of Religion on the Mind." The voice of thy excellent Grandfather R. is comparatively seldom heard in the gallery, but in his daily walk, he is an epistle of Christ read and known of all men with whom he has intercourse. Whether he buys or sells, reads or writes, walks or talks, "do all to the glory of God" appears to be the injunction he is habitually fulfilling; it is the meat which the world knows not of, except that it sees its effects in sustaining the spiritual life, and enabling him to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith he is called. Thou, my dear boy, bearest his honoured name: may it be abundantly adorned in thee by his Christian graces; so wilt thou be as an apprentice, kind, obliging, industrious, faithful—the absence of oversight being an increased stimulus to duty—all this will be the natural fruit of the good tree, the vine, of which every true Christian is a living branch, abundant in fruit-bearing to the glory of God.

Be careful to avoid needlessly late hours, the

temptation is often great, for growing boys it is injurious to health and vigour; never read by candle-light in bed.

How does thou manage respecting getting up in the morning? hard work, is it not? never mind! duty, with a conscientious boy, opens sleepy eyes, throws off warm sheets and blankets, gives new energy to bed-loving limbs, and silences the importunate beggar which craves "a little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the arms to sleep."

Farewell, my beloved son in much love, in which thy beloved "mother elect" unites.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

10th mo. 19, 1845.

WRITTEN A SHORT TIME PREVIOUS TO HIS SECOND MARRIAGE.

I look forward with chastened feelings and with a solemn sense of the import of the words "if the Lord permit." My mind is deeply, I trust profitably, bowed before Him whom I desire to love supremely, and to serve in the Gospel of His Son with fidelity and devotion. I crave that the depths through which He has been pleased of late to lead me,

and in which I am still held, may be preparing me for the work before me. Oh! that He would make me perfectly submissive, and enable me to leave all in His hands. With regard to the school, I feel chiefly for my colleagues; I am not so high in my own opinion, as one of its guardians, to believe that it cannot go on very well for a week or two without me; but I know at the same time that my duties must devolve upon others, and that they have their full portion. However I must leave even this; if the two duties interfere, the less must yield, and I do not doubt that under other superintendence, the Institution will be blessed, when the right time comes for a change; in the mean time diligence in discharging my duties whilst at home, and simple faithfulness in following the guidance of my great Master, is what I must earnestly press after.

For thee my love, as my future companion and sharer in all my engagements, civil, social and religious, as having part with me in the tribulations of the Gospel for the body's sake, I fervently desire that thou mayst be, even now, passing through the preparing dispensations to the Lord's will, and that as thou hast hitherto been qualified to discharge the duties of the

sphere in which thou hast been called to move, so in this larger and more conspicuous line of service, he would qualify and strengthen thee. I do not doubt thou wilt have many trials unknown before; but I much question whether they will be greater than these through which thou hast passed recently and art still passing.

TO HIS ELDEST SON ON ENTERING ON HIS APPRENTICESHIP AS A GROCER.

Ackworth School, 11th mo. 22, 1485.

My dear George,

Although thou art not an indentured apprentice, thou art now bona fide an apprentice, and bound to thy master, I hope, by a stronger bond than a parchment instrument, signed, sealed and delivered and duly witnessed, could furnish. Bound by christian obligation to be diligent and faithful, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but with singleness of heart as unto God, for ye serve the Lord Christ. These, I trust, are the real terms of thy agreement, which through divine grace, thou wilt be enabled to keep with all fidelity. What a privilege it is to have such confidence felt towards thee, that even the ordinary legal forms of contract may, it is believed, be safely dispensed with.

Prize such a character, my dear boy, and in humility cherish it; be not high-minded, but fear; think not thyself better than others, but rather reflect how far short thou art coming of thy high christian and social privileges. It is said that the pious martyr, John Bradford, once saw a malefactor going to execution, and exclaimed, "But for the preventing grace of God, there goes John Bradford." My boy, thou hast entered upon a path of many dangers, and this all-sufficient grace can alone enable thee to tread it safely. Thou hast an unusual privilege in having an apartment to thyself; prize it highly: let it be to thee a little sanctuary in which thou mayst read thy Bible with deep devotion and prayer, in which, in reverent retirement before the Lord, thou mayst commune with thy own heart and be still, and in this stillness enjoy true communion with thy God and Saviour, thus partaking of the real Supper of the Lord. Those who experience this from season to season, are raised above all types and shadows and elements of the world.

With much love,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

In the 12th month, 1845, Thomas Pumphrey was united in marriage with Isabel Unthank, of North Shields. In her he found a devoted and loving companion to his journey's end.

ADDRESSED TO ALL HIS CHILDREN ON RECEIPT OF A UNITED LITTLE PRESENT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SECOND MARRIAGE, 1845.

My dearly beloved Children,

I gratefully accept your valuable, and almost too splendid present as "a token" of your "dutiful affection"—as a proof it was not needed.

Your filial love, your prompt obedience, and your attentive consideration to my wishes, have been my solace and joy since it has been my lot to tread alone the path of life. May we always continue to love one another with a pure heart fervently, as we ever have done.

Whilst I gratefully appreciate the abundant evidences of your love, I earnestly desire that you may place your supreme love on Him, your God and Saviour, who has followed us with goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Remember, my dear children, the counsel of your precious mother, whose memory I trust

will always be cherished by every one of us with tender affection. Read frequently that excellent letter, which, as a voice from the dead, speaks as though she yet lived, and you will find her saying "we may commit sin by idolising any creature, but we can never love our Saviour too ardently."

Your kind wishes for my happiness with dearest I. are very acceptable. I trust we shall all share in the benefits to be anticipated from our union, and that the harmony in which we have always been preserved as a family, may not only be continued, but increased, inasmuch as another will be added to our united little band to share its social joys.

Your truly affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

WRITTEN DURING HIS WEDDING TOUR.

Keswick, 12 mo. 17, 1845.

My beloved Anna,

My letter to Cousin H. R. containing a detailed account of the memorable day of marriage, left us at Gilsland, where we remained till about noon on Seventh-day. During the night the hand of frost had been hard at work, and had wrought a wonderful change in the

beautiful scenery of the district; the grass, the moss, the twigs, the trees, the stream, the rocks, and the waterfalls, were all most splendidly adorned with icy gems of varied form and lustre; icicles, curiously convolved, hung pendent from the overhanging cliffs, like so many crystal stalactites, varying in size from the embryo of glass, to the massive rod two feet long, and of proportionate thickness; the moss and smaller vegetation beneath formed a nucleus for splendid specimens of spar, varying in colour according to the object beneath them: it was a gorgeous sight, such as I never recollect to have seen of the kind.

On Second-day we reached Cockermouth, and yesterday attended Pardshaw Monthly Meeting at Cockermouth.

We were well satisfied in being there. Friends were overwhelmingly kind; some few knew us, others knew persons who knew us, and some who were not so nearly related as this, had heard either of us or of Ackworth. Thus there was an abundance of reasons for their hospitality, which was bestowed upon us in a large measure. As some people would say, we tore ourselves away, and pursued our course to this quiet seclusion.

This morning we had a row up the Lake, visited the elegant waterfall of Barrow, and the thundering one of Lodore, explored the dark recesses of a slate quarry of most singular aspect from the peculiar dip of the cleavage and stratification. We extended our ride to the black lead mines in Borrowdale, between stupendous, rugged mountains, whose summits were bleaching with snow as we rode along, whilst in the valley the rain fell during the latter part of our journey and returning voyage pretty copiously.

We are greatly enjoying ourselves, favoured on every hand with outward and spiritual mercies, permitted to relish the beauties around us with grateful hearts.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 2nd mo. 26, 1846.

My dear George,

The weather continues remarkably open and beautiful, and is very enjoyable, but we must regard it as premature for the season, and have great reason to fear that the early blossoms will be cut off by late frosts. How well it is to reflect at all times that these arrangements are made and controlled by One

who is infinite in wisdom, and who, from "seeming evil still educes good." I am nothing of a politician, but I am greatly pleased with the extraordinary progress of the Free Trade question. I believe the only sound course to be pursued with regard to that, is to let it run its own course and find its own level. That trade which requires protection to uphold it, should be allowed to fall: it will be sure to be raised up, if it be able to stand and maintain itself. I entertained and advocated these sentiments at the time when French gloves were proposed to be introduced in 1826, and though the result was very injurious to my own business, I still think it was a measure in the right direction. It is true that when trade has got into an artificial state, it will probably affect existing interests to restore it to its natural healthy tone and state, but this is an argument against the first interference, and the injury will be greater, the longer the restoration is delayed. I have been giving thee quite a lecture on political economy, not that I wish thee to be a politician, for that would give me much concern; but I should like thee to entertain sound views on political science, and understand the constitution of the government and the institutions

of the country. Should there be a general election, be very careful to keep out of the excitement and the party spirit which usually prevail at such times.

In dear love to thee and T.,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 3rd mo. 15, 1846.

My beloved Boy,

I believe I have not written to thee since thy return to school, but I have often thought of thee with much affection, and thou hast often been spoken of by us. This evening after our usual family reading, all my dear children were brought very vividly before me, even as though they were all sitting round the table, and a lively exercise of mind was raised on your behalf. As this feeling has prevailed, I strongly incline to convey to thee my endeared love, the earnest solicitude of my heart, that thou mayst in the very morning of thy life, devote thyself to God; mayst love his precious truth; and be willing to take up the cross of thy Redeemer, preferring Him above thy chief joy. Oh the happiness as well as safety of the christian! Though we are often called to resign

some present pleasure, in the surrender of the will there is a sweet peace; and how often within the folds of some seeming enjoyment, are hidden sorrow and disappointment, which we are spared by a ready obedience to divine requiring, even though it be in little things.

Not that there is merit in obedience, it is our duty as well as our interest, and having done our best, we are but unprofitable, though richly rewarded, servants. But to be a servant of the Lord, even in the lowest place in his house, is a higher honour than the best post the world can give us. Mayst thou, and may all who are dear to me, be engaged in the heavenly household.

What a remarkably early spring we have, it will be three weeks ago, on Third-day, since I gathered primroses by the road side on Castle Syke Hill, and now there is a great variety both of wild and garden flowers; peaches, apricots, plums and pears are beautifully in blossom; the hedges are becoming quite green, and several kinds of trees are unfolding their leaf-buds. We have had scarcely any rain, but we hear that in Cumberland so great a quantity has fallen as to swell the lakes to

such an extent that Derwent water and Bassenthwaite have been united into one.

Farewell, my dear boy,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

In the summer of 1846 Thomas Pumphrey was engaged in religious service in Scotand. The following letter to his wife, written from Ury, formerly the residence of Robert Barclay the apologist, presents a graphic picture of the change in the abode of the peace-loving man.

We are told by psychologists that propensities strongly developed, may be hidden for two or three generations, to appear again with renewed force in a remote direct descent. If this be true, the theory may serve to account for the pugilistic propensities, so largely developed in the late Captain Robert Barclay, the fourth in descent from the soldier who fought at Lutzen, was colonel of a regiment of horse under Charles I. in the civil war in England, and who at length joined the peaceable but despised Friends.

Ury 8th mo. 19, 1846.

My beloved Isabel,

I commence a letter to thee from this interesting spot whither a party of us are come on our way south.

8th mo. 21—Thus far I wrote on the top of the parapet of a wall which overlooks the garden. As we moved about we found ourselves surrounded by associations of a deeply interesting character; but the visit to the house was really distressing. Except "in locality and name" all had undergone an affecting change. In the entrance or vestibule, the walls were covered over with pictures of boxing and boxers in their pugilistic attitudes: one sketch of a boxing match was awfully graphic, it was just at the crisis, when a few moments must decide the victor, and as yet the balance was nearly equal; the artist had with powerful effect thrown into the countenances of the group in and about the ring, a remarkable combination of demoniacal passions; amongst them stood conspicuous, with features distorted, and his whole frame convulsed with contending emotions, the great grandson of our great apologist, as the backer of one of the combatants: I could not sleep at night for the scene, which haunted me

continually. In the dining room Dewsbury's life and Penn's travels were in close association with the Racing Calender, and David Barclay's mild and benignant features were looking across the window upon "John Gully who beat M'Gregor" and Crib who vanquished some other great pugilist, both in boxing attitude; in the drawing-room was a screen covered over with foolish caricatures and childish pictures. There were several full length family portraits, a large full length portrait of some eminent boxer in attitude, finely painted: beside it, as one of the most conspicuous ornaments of the room, was a large and fine painting of "Trusty, the celebrated bull-dog, the property of Robert Barclay, Esq. of Ury, who fought fifty pitched battles and was never beaten." The apartment was furnished with the old family chairs, tables, &c. chairs with turned legs, gilt all over, cushioned with green silk damask, rich in its day, but now worn through and through, and covered over with chintz or some modern drapery. On these, however, doubtless sat those great and good men and women, to whom they once belonged, and many grave and worthy friends their guests and visiters.

Captain Barclay was from home, so we only

had a peep into the Apologist's study; but there all seemed confusion, boxes partly unpacked were lying open and it had in the small part we could see more the appearance of a lumber room than a library. But though the house is in a miserable state in its moral aspect, yet it is beautiful for situation; the views from it are beautiful, and the grounds are romantic, not only uninjured by the depravity of man, but greatly improved by the judicious extensive planting and excellent cultivation of the present proprietor, who is one of the first farmers in the north of Scotland.

TO HIS ELDEST SON.

1st mo. 18, 1847.

I awoke before it was light this morning, and lying awake some time, thou, my beloved son, wast brought to my remembrance under a very solemn feeling of religious exercise and parental affection; and during the day, in and out of meetings, thou hast been remarkably present with me. I have been introduced into a lively feeling of sympathy with thee in thy present circumstances, and under those temptations to which, at thy age, and in the situation of an apprentice, surrounded by many young

persons of considerable variety of dispositions and character, thou art exposed. It has felt very endearing to be thus brought into feeling with thee, and to be enabled in the fulness of a father's love to pour out my prayers on thy behalf, with a sense of Divine acceptance, from the persuasion that they were mingled with the sweet incense of a Saviour's intercession. Perhaps, my dear boy, thou mayst be feeling a somewhat increased pressure of the enemy's power; the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, with some or other of those various beguilements, with which Satan continually lies in wait to deceive. I do not desire for thee exemption from temptation, because it is the common lot of humanity, and I know it would be a vain desire; but I pray for thee that under them, thou mayst utterly distrust thyself, and lay hold of Him upon whom help hath been and still is laid. The name of the Lord is a strong tower, into which the believing soul may flee, and will assuredly be safe. I do not doubt that in reading this letter thou wilt find it sweet, and perhaps strengthening to have thy father's sympathy and prayers; but they are as nothing and vanity compared with the continual sympathy

and all-availing intercession of that gracious Saviour, who is touched with a feeling of all thy infirmities and temptations, and is as able as He is willing to succour thee.

Oh! that thou mayst bow under the mighty power of God in the day of thy visitation; that thy heart may be thoroughly changed, that the new birth may be experienced, and a living faith be thine, in place of an evil heart of unbelief. Do not deceive thyself by thinking that a kind, cheerful, amiable disposition, (a good measure of which I am thankful thou possesses) is a renewed heart; they may exist without it, and may even be made a snare of the enemy, and given thee as a reed to lean on, instead of the Lord's rod and staff, which alone can truly comfort thee. Therefore bow low, endure the humbling baptisms of the Spirit. Dwell alone and keep silence, having thy mouth in the dust, that is, waiting in patience and fervency of spirit on the Lord, in deep self-abasement: cherish great tenderness of conscience, walking in the light which makes manifest, yielding to the voice which reproves, and submitting to the Divine hand that guides. "Keep thyself pure," for the true fear of the Lord is clean: be very tender of the secret

visitations of the Lord's Spirit and power, and obey His constraining influences. When thou art puzzled either as it regards doctrine or practice, wait in patience till light makes clear; he that believeth doth not make haste, it is not safe to doubt merely because we cannot understand; in natural things many things are plain to the mature understanding which in time past have been incomprehensible, and we are still constrained to believe much in regard to what we can handle and examine, which the most acute philosopher cannot at all explain, how much more may we not then expect to have slowly to learn, and how much in simple faith to receive, in regard to those spiritual realities, which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart conceived; which even the angels desire to look into, and which are only revealed and can be only revealed by the Spirit. Avoid a disputatious controversial spirit; it is too generally the offspring and the sin of pride, so that christian humility seldom flourishes in the atmosphere in which this spirit exists. Be careful of the books thou reads; do not allow them to be merely harmless, let them be directly profitable, either in natural or spiritual knowledge.

Thus have I conveyed to thee a little of the loving travail of my soul, for thee, my beloved George. May God preserve thee by his power, guide thee by His hand, teach thee by his Spirit, and make thee, for His dear Son's sake, His own through time and eternity, is the present prayer of

Thy tenderly affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

DURING THE FIRST VACATION.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 12, 1847.

My dear Anna,

I have very little leisure for writing to thee to-day, but as thou art an observer of days and times, I incline to salute thee with my affectionate, best wishes for thee on thy entrance upon thy twentieth year, leaving thy teens! if we find conduct and character warrant it, we shall be fain to regard thee as "a woman grown," on thy return. Well, my love, as I am not wont to wish "many happy returns," because the number is in the hands of One who wisely and beneficently orders all things; and the happiness depends upon the interior-self more than upon external circumstances, I will just tell thee what I do wish, and that with

parental fervency, that thou mayst be a Christian; evidencing by thy daily walk, the fruits of the Spirit, thus showing that religion with thee is not an empty name, but a powerful regulating principle. True, vital, heartfelt religion is all pervading; it enters into the very minutiæ of life, it restrains our tongues not only from anger and more flagrant evil speaking, but from foolish unprofitable talk; it regulates our dress, and our thoughts about dress; it controls our pleasures, forbidding us to seek all unlawful gratifications by unlawfulness: how excellently well does W. Penn treat this subject in "No Cross, No Crown." It limits our expenses upon ourselves, and pours forth a stream of benevolence towards others; it curtails our desires and expands our hearts; it forbids us to walk in the way of evil, for the Lord's sake, and it enables us to run in the way of His commandments, for the love we bear Him. And this love is always the reflection and reaction of His love to us, not that we first loved Him, but He first loved us." But time and space would fail to tell all the restraining and constraining power of vital christianity. May thy religion, my beloved daughter, and mine, be of this practical character, because, "if ye love me

keep my commandments," is an injunction of our Lord.

Give my dear love to Polly, and tell her we are much pleased to hear she is a good girl and industrious. I have no doubt the little frock will give pleasure in making, and in giving away, and in receiving, and in being worn, and I am sure it is worth making a sacrifice to give pleasure.

We get on pretty well, notwithstanding the solitariness, on account of which much sympathy is felt for us. I suppose we are amongst the sages that have seen charms in its face, or else the vision has not yet passed before us. The workmen are very busy; the slating is getting on rapidly, but the work is somewhat retarded by the generality of the "labourers" both here and at the Flounders having struck, not considering that 18s. per week was sufficient for making mortar and carrying bricks, with other important *head-work*. J. Wood is gone over to Leeds to procure more; it will I hope be unnecessary to prolong the vacation, but it will be a very tight fit, and things will be far from complete, though certainly a great deal has been accomplished in the last fortnight.

We have nice refreshing meetings on one

side of the Committee-room, and good comfortable meals on the other: after supper all the servants come in to reading, and very pleasant little opportunities they are. I hope the servants like them. I am sure we do.

We have good reports from the boys (G. and T.), you appear to be enjoying yourselves, so that it seems we may each say "the lines are fallen to me in pleasant places."

With endeared affection and much love from both of us,

Thy tenderly attached Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

St. Austell, 10th mo. 4, 1846.

My dear little Daughter,

We hope thou art trying to be very good and attentive, always remembering that when thou art tempted to do wrong, thou canst only resist the temptation through the help of the Holy Spirit, and for that thou shouldst often earnestly pray. I wonder whether I can tell thee of anything that will interest thee, which we have seen in our travels thus far. Perhaps thou wouldst like to visit a very large Tin-mine. Art thou thinking of a deep shaft, down which thou must decend in a basket, and there find all

dark except the glimmer of candles and lamps; and dost thou expect to creep along low passages, knocking thy head every minute against the roof, and tearing thy frock with the projecting pieces of the work? No, my darling, I will not take thee into so unsuitable a place, but still I want thee to visit a tin-mine. Suppose I blindfold thee till I say "look." Now "look," it is like an immense quarry, a mile in circumference and 130 or 140 feet deep, covered over with vast pinnacles of decomposed or unformed granite, which rise in the most picturesque confusion. Miners, when they find a vein of tin, pierce into the rock with their pickaxes, often only having room to lie on their backs or their sides, and sometimes the rock falls in upon them and they are killed, or very much hurt. They find the tin in little black or dark brown grains, hard in the rock, and so they take rock and all, and convey it to a stamping mill, of which there are many in this gigantic pit, worked by water wheels, and then it is broken quite to powder, and then washed; the tin being heavier than the sand and earth, sinks to the bottom, and is very valuable when collected, £40 to £50 a ton being given for it. We saw some heaps of it looking like fine

black earth. How curious those men look in the bottom, like little boys they are so small. That lofty projecting rock in the centre, so beautifully streaked with black veins of stone, looks as if it might come down like an avalanche some day. All the rest is beautifully white, it consists of Mica and Quartz crystal, and if the sun were shining would look splendid. This mine is the only open mine I believe in the kingdom, certainly in this county, it is said to have been worked 2000 years, and that the Phœnicians obtained tin from it, we must walk round it, for we cannot obtain a view of the whole from any one point. What numbers of those Adits there are: through some of them, the water which has turned the stamping mills, is conveyed through the side of the hill, out of the mine. The tall pyramids are washed away by degrees by the rain, and are mouldered away by the frost and weather, others are formed by the mine, and some parts look very much like the crystallized sperm. The ground on the moor all round is covered with wild chamomile, very fine, and exceedingly bitter, but at the present season it has nearly done flowering.

Well, my dear little girl, canst thou understand what a wonderful place Carclaze Tin

mine is? if not I must try and explain further when we return, and shew thee specimens of the ore and granite we have brought from it.

The latter part of this letter has been written at Truro, where we arrived about 6 o'clock this evening. It is the prettiest town in Cornwall. We have been calling on a friend since tea, and there we saw one little girl rather older than thee, knitting a sock, and she did it so quickly and so well, we were quite delighted with her skill; another was making some harness for her brother's little horses, which she managed very cleverly. I thought of my own dear children, and felt that they also loved one another, and took pleasure in doing kind offices for each other: how sweet is love! what a beautiful sight is a united family of brothers and sisters!

Farewell my darling, a sweet kiss from each of us, and as much love as a letter will convey to both of you,

Thy very affectionate Papa,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER VI.

Progress of improvement—New Meeting-House built—School-rooms and class-rooms increased—Light and airy rooms—Removal of the same—Penalties—Modifications of them suggested by Thomas Pumphrey—Extracts from memoranda on this subject—Improvements in the girls' wing—Supply of Water—T. P.'s health affected—Absence for a time—Letters during his absence—Accident to his children—Letter on the occasion—Letters continued—His father-in-law Geo. Richardson described.

We have already noticed the alterations in 1842, when the girls' dining-room was transformed into a commodious reading and lecture-room. Five years after, in 1847, still more extensive changes were contemplated, and by the liberality of the Society successfully and efficiently carried out. Soon after the opening of the school in 1779, four rooms, constituting the whole of the boys' wing, below the pediment, were thrown into one large apartment, and fitted up as a Meeting House. This continued to be used as such till 1848, when alterations on a very extended scale were made. Much dissatisfaction had,

for some years, been felt by the Committee, with the general state of the boys' premises. The upper school-rooms were scarcely more than eight feet high. The ventilation was imperfect: all the rooms were crowded, and as there were no auxiliary class-rooms, there was no opportunity of occasionally relieving the numbers. The only room to which the boys were allowed access in play-time, was of necessity used for teaching, and it will be easily conceived, that neither its atmosphere nor its appointments, were adapted to promote efficient teaching. The impression on the Committee and on others was, that the minds, manners, and health of the children were unfavourably affected by the rough and inadequate accommodation, in these and in various other important particulars. It seems from a statement made by the late Superintendent, that the confidence of parents appeared to be diminished, inasmuch as the complement of boys was not reached for several years. To remedy this condition of things, it was resolved that rooms should be provided to admit of an increased sub-division

of classes, that an apartment should be provided for the teachers in the midst of their charge, that the upper rooms should be raised several feet, and that various other alterations, promotive of health, cleanliness, decency, and orderly habits should be made. These changes involved the surrender of the old Meeting House, to be once more arranged into rooms, above and below, devoted to school-rooms, class-rooms, work-shop, &c. The building of a new Meeting House was rendered necessary, and of course, an outlay of formidable dimensions. But the Committee, confiding in the goodness of their well considered plans, and in the well known liberality of the Society, came boldly out. They presented a view of the whole case, in a lucid and energetic address. Subscriptions speedily flowed in, exceeding £6000. All that was projected was satisfactorily completed, and the most sanguine expectations of the liberal minded projectors, were fully realized. The new Meeting House is well built, lofty, and capable of seating 800 or 900 persons. It is well warmed, ventilated, and

lighted, and is accessible to the children at all seasons, under cover, by means of open colonnades.

In connexion with these changes, a suite of rooms, including a handsome drawing-room, was provided for the Superintendent. The drawing-room overlooks the ornamental area in front of the Meeting House, and commands the high road.

Before the alterations which we have described, the site occupied by this room was appropriated to two or three small rooms of quite an opposite character. They were designated "the light and airy rooms," and were places of solitary confinement for delinquents. Strange as was their name, they were, nevertheless, results of the march of improvement at the school, and well deserved the appellation of light and airy, when contrasted with the cells which they had superseded.

One of the masters informs us, that an old friend of his, formerly an Ackworth scholar, introduced into the cheerful and well-appointed drawing-room, with recollections,

probably of occasional tenancy of the light and airy rooms, exclaimed "From Tartarus to Elysium!"

The subject of penalties, and the desire to reduce them to the smallest amount of frequency and severity, compatible with good government, early occupied the attention of Thomas Pumphrey. The following memoranda, made within the first month of his residence at Ackworth, indicate some of his enlightened views on this subject.

12th mo. 17, 1834.—Had a good deal of conversation with an officer in the school, on the nature and object of punishment,—its proper infliction,—the impropriety of its having any thing retaliative in it,—prevention of offence in the school, and the reformation of the offender its legitimate objects,—the demoralizing effect of a multiplicity of rules, by their frequent infraction, and necessary frequent punishment, &c. &c. Examined the records of caning, a very humiliating volume,—it carries its own refutation with it, as to the good effects of such kinds of punishment,—235 inflictions in a year, of which half the number have been upon 8 boys,

varying from 3 to 24 times in the year: my mind is greatly pained by the perusal.

12th mo. 31, 1834.—A proposition was made to get the boys to inform of the ringleaders, to which I objected, as calculated to undermine generous feelings in boys' minds; recommended that the guilty parties be encouraged to come forward and acknowledge their offence.

1st. mo. 1, 1835.—The whole school spoken to respecting last evening's uproar, with apparently very good effect; those boys who were engaged in it, were requested to come forward, which they did very generally, contrary to the opinion the teachers expressed yesterday.

These brief notes have been selected from a series extending only over the first four months of Thomas Pumphrey's administration. Their instructive character leads us to regret their discontinuance.

Long before resigning his post, he had the gratification of witnessing a most salutary change in the matter of penal discipline, accompanied with a corresponding improvement in the general tone of behaviour throughout the school. The abandonment

of corporal punishment by stripes was one of the characteristics of the change.

Thomas Pumphrey's health was seriously affected by the pressure of care and anxiety connected with the active daily superintendence of the alterations, carried out in the school buildings in the summer of 1847. In the Third Month of 1848 it was thought needful that he should leave for a time, the school and the cares connected with it, in the hope of restoration. He told his friend, one of the masters, to whom we are indebted for many interesting incidents in Thomas Pumphrey's life at Ackworth, that he felt very near the grave in that illness. Of the nineteen children who died during his term of office, one death occurred during his absence on this occasion. Some touching letters were addressed to his colleagues relative to the event. He pictured to himself almost every movement in the nursery—the dear boy—the nursing—the doctor's visits—the increasingly discouraging symptoms—the closing scene—the chamber of death—the

committing of ashes to ashes, dust to dust. I well remember, says our informant, how touching were his expressions of sympathy with his colleagues on whom, in his enforced absence, his cares had devolved, and how keenly he felt the separation. Funerals were with him memorable occasions. He often set forth that neither health, nor strength, nor youth, nor vigour, was any security against the hand of death.

Tynemouth, 3rd. mo. 14, 1848.

My beloved Anna,

Thy affecting account, to hand this morning, of dear William Boardman's illness has introduced me into much anxiety and distressing thought. I do not doubt that everything will be done by those at home, that can be done, yet not to be at my post when so much anxious care is resting upon the various officers of the Institution, is very trying, and could I see that I could prudently return to be of much service, I would at once turn my face homewards, but that, as I have endeavoured seriously to revolve it, I cannot see. My strength, though gradually recruiting, is still

weakness. I am only equal to very slight exertion, and should probably be entirely thrown back, if, under the influence of powerful excitement, I were to attempt much bodily or mental labour. Nevertheless I am feeling much for you at home. The account of the the state of William's mind is comforting to me. If he be capable of receiving such a message, give my very dear love to him, and tell him how earnestly do I pray that the work of his soul's salvation may be carried forward, by the power of the Holy Spirit, whether life or death be the issue of his complaint. That he will be tenderly watched over in this respect, by his teachers and nurses, I feel sure. Oh! if consistent with the Divine will, that the dear boy's life might be spared; but I have so undoubted an assurance that our merciful heavenly Father does all things well, and with perfect wisdom, that whilst I would plead fervently on this behalf, it must only be in unreserved submission and humble resignation, let what may, be the result. I feel much for his parents; my love to them and the expression of my tender sympathy.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Tynemouth, 3rd mo. 20, 1848.

My beloved Anna,

We shall probably leave Newcastle on Second-day for York. My feelings on returning home will be very mingled; the solemn thoughts of the breach that has been made amongst the dear children during our absence, is often present with me, and will doubtless come before me with added force when I re-enter the school walls. However I desire not to repine; mercies unnumbered and unmerited are our portion, and amongst them, I doubt not, ought to be noted these affecting warnings to prepare for our final change. Oh! that I, and thou, my dear girl, and all dear to me, and the beloved flock and family over which I am placed, may duly profit; but we are fools and slow of heart to believe, or to receive instruction. At thy age, my love, it behoves thee to examine well thy religious standing, the ground of thy hope; to see whether a name to live is satisfying thee; to take a decided course, avoiding all unprofitable disputation, and endeavouring to keep thy eye single to the Lord, whose Spirit, like the wind, bloweth where it listeth, works mightily yet mysteriously in the soul, giving an awful view

of the sinfulness of the heart, and of our actual sin, the ministration of condemnation, very humiliating, but essential in order that we may be driven to the only fountain of purification, the only rock of refuge, the only hope of glory, Christ revealing himself to us as *our*, not merely *the* Saviour. As we submit to the working of His power, we are brought into great retiredness of spirit, often to tread in very narrow paths till the soul is enlarged, and we are permitted to partake of the liberty of the Gospel. For want of due submission to these restraints and limitations, and of willingness to become fools for Christ's sake, many young christians cause the work to be marred on the wheel, and they go on haltingly, are dwarfish, and much in the mixture, and do not attain to that height in spiritual stature, or that depth in christian experience, which was designed. Sometimes indeed shipwreck of faith is made altogether, even when there was a good and hopeful beginning. Be humble, patient and enduring.

Mother and I unite in very dear love to P. and thyself.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 11, 1848.

My very dear Thomas,

The feelings with which I sit down to address this my last letter to thee as a school-boy, are solemn, pleasing, and very tendering to my spirit.

In a faithful, heart-searching review of thy conduct, and the motives which have influenced many of thy actions since thou left Ackworth as a home, I am persuaded thou wilt see cause to humble thyself before God, and earnestly to pray for forgiveness and for more grace. Cherish such a feeling; it is a security against spiritual pride; we are thus reminded that after we have done our very best, we are unprofitable servants; that we have only in our very best actions, even in those wrought by the power of the Holy Spirit, done our simple duty; that we have no merits to plead, but that the reward is of free grace and not of debt.

Oh! my beloved son, mayst thou press forward: let thy motto continually be, "I may not stay;" thou art about to tread a new, and, to thee, an untrodden path, abounding with unknown snares, and in which thy temptations will be many and various; thy soul's enemy will be active and insidious, and thy security is

in watchfulness unto prayer. Cherish great tenderness of conscience and an unreserved obedience to the gently-restraining and constraining power of the spirit of Christ in the heart. Be diligent and faithful in thy master's business, but let not its engrossing and fatiguing cares and occupations, prevent thy appropriating a small portion of the day, which may be at thy own disposal, to silent waiting upon God, for devotional reading of thy bible, and for prayer.

I think it will be profitable at this particular juncture, between leaving school and entering upon thy apprenticeship, to read the memorial of thy precious mother: love her memory, and believe that her pious care for thee has been had, and still is had, in remembrance before God.

It is to me particularly agreeable that all my children are likely, if favoured to carry out our plans, to meet under the roof of their dear venerated grandfather: a man, than whom I know few more worthy of love and imitation. He is a wise man in the best sense of the term; and a good man in the highest sense in which it is allowable for us to use it. I believe we may say of him, that it is his meat and drink to do the will of his heavenly Father. To be

descended from such a stock, is no small privilege; to have such an ancestor live so long that you can know and appreciate his worth, is one still greater; but to follow him, as he has, from his youth up, followed Christ, is and will be the greatest of all. Consider then, the end of his conversation and follow his faith, and the blessing of the Lord will rest upon thee.

With the united dear love of all our circle,

Thy tenderly affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

REFERRING TO THE NARROW ESCAPE OF THREE OF HIS CHILDREN FROM BEING UPSET WHEN OUT ON TYNEMOUTH HAVEN IN A SMALL BOAT.

Whitby, 8th mo. 2, 1848.

My beloved Anna and Thomas,

When I reflect that instead of being the joyful father of four precious children, I might now be mourning over the loss of three of them, but for the preventing mercy of our God, my whole soul is bowed in thankfulness before Him. I will not add to the agonizing feelings which must have been yours, during the short time of your fearful danger, when death appeared so near to all three of you, further than to say that I certainly had

greater confidence in your discretion and judgment, than your actions in this instance have justified. The main bent of my thoughts, sleeping and waking, by day and by night, (for I have lain much awake,) has been towards you, and the awful peril in which your lives have been placed.

We received A.'s affectionate letter on our return last evening from Castleton. On opening the Bible for our evening reading, I desired that we might be directed to some appropriate portion of Scripture, and I opened at the 116th Psalm, which I wish you to read seriously together, as well as separately; read it with your hearts turned in grateful acknowledgment of your daily, and of this special mercy; read it with prayer and thanksgiving, and may it be blessed to your souls' profit as it has been to mine. I was going to refer you to a few verses which particularly impressed me, but on again looking it over, it seems all so exceedingly adapted to your present circumstances, that I will only say, as having a reference to your future walk, ponder well from the 12th verse to the end.

After I had read dear A.'s letter, and the first burst of grateful feeling and thanksgiving was over, I inquired for what purpose are the

lives of these dear children thus providentially spared? Surely that they may not live to themselves, but to Him who hath redeemed their lives from destruction, and I felt engaged again, and in a very especial manner, to dedicate you to the service of the Lord, to pray that the same power that had preserved your bodies, would also preserve your souls alive to Him, and keep you in the hour of temptation; and when in future days, you may be allured from the paths of holiness, purity and peace, call to mind the day when the Lord delivered your souls from death, and pray that He will still, by the Spirit of his dear Son, continue to keep your eyes from tears and your feet from falling.

I have long firmly believed that a prompt obedience to those very gentle restraints, as well as constraints, which are felt in a tender conscience, constitutes the practice of christianity: herein we discharge our daily duties, and that inasmuch as those who are faithful over a little, are faithful also in much; in those things which we are wont to consider as more important, ability and disposition are given to be faithful also; your Saviour has dealt mercifully and tenderly with you and

with us, and in watching over your unwatchful hours, has preserved you.

It would be vain in me to attempt to enumerate all the manifold dangers to which you are exposed; I can but commend you to the care of the unslumbering Shepherd. In general terms be prudent, consider well before you act; and decline invariably where you do not quite approve; if it is clearly right, judgment will always have sufficiently strong bias towards inclination.

I have been "dumb with silence," and have scarcely dared to open my mouth about it, so deep has been my feeling. I think I scarcely knew before how precious you are to me, or how hard it would be to say, under some of the Lord's providences, "Thy will be done;" it has been a touching and teaching lesson to myself.

Farewell, my dear children: joined by your dear mother in the tenderest love, I am,

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 29, 1848.

My dear George,

We intend thy dear brother to join thee to-morrow. It is with solemn feelings that I part with him, and fervent are my desires that nothing may occur to obstruct the growth of that which is good in his heart. As the elder, a very weighty responsibility will rest upon thee; mayst thou be enabled faithfully and affectionately to discharge it. Watch over one another for good; be not censorious of each other, but in the spirit of brotherly love, warn each other of his faults and guard him from temptation: thou hast had somewhat more experience in the dangers of the path you are about to tread together, give him all the benefit of it thou canst. Be always disposed to help and instruct each other, cherish tenderness of conscience and love the truth, and may the God of your parents, and your parents' parents be your God and Saviour to the end.

Thou, my beloved George art of an age, when everything is important to thee in no ordinary degree. Thy character for time, and thy prospects for eternity may now become fixed; therefore walk watchfully and very

humbly before God, be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

I wished to have informed thee, hadst thou come to Whitley, a little of thy future prospects in life, so far as my means of assisting thee in business, &c. may affect them, that thou mayst feel thy own footing, and see that upon thy own exertions, and discretion, and good conduct thy prosperity in business will mainly depend, under—(and always bear this in mind,) under the divine blessing.

In order to make a business answer and to live free from that corroding anxiety which is produced by carrying on losing concerns, several things are requisite:—first in order of time, a thorough knowledge of one's own business in all its details; not a mere superficial knowledge, but a comprehensive knowledge: next, a general knowledge of business, with business habits, punctuality, perseverance, obliging manners; a disposition to put up with whims and annoyances of fastidious or unreasonable customers; trouble in obliging should not be much thought of, and never manifested. Now I want my sons to be men of business, but not men whom business absorbs, and therefore they must endeavour to do all that belongs to it

well It is often for want of this that some, far from being worldly minded men, are constantly harrassed and perplexed, and are perhaps unable to keep themselves above water.

In tenderest love,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Worcester, 5th mo. 20, 1849.

My dear Anna,

And now my love, let me turn to thee on thy first visit to London, and especially on thy first attendance of the Yearly Meeting. Thou art highly favoured in regard to external circumstances, nice, clean lodgings, and attendants, and what is of more importance than both together, instructive christian companions. To have thy precious grandfather's company, in his venerable old age, on such an occasion, is a privilege indeed, and to be associated with so judicious a caretaker and counsellor as thy beloved aunt, is to be scarcely less appreciated. My prayers have been almost daily raised that this occasion may be blessed to thee for life, as I believe a similar one has been to me for the last twenty-nine years. It increased so greatly

my high sense of the blessings which attach to us as members of the Society of Friends; it cleared and heightened my perception of the beauty and harmony of our principles, consistent with themselves and with the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour; and it caused me to love its doctrines and practices more than I had ever done before. Nor was this a transient effect; it has never passed away.

Like thee, I spent a few days before the Yearly Meeting in sight-seeing, and attending public meetings, I believe profitably: it enlarged my ideas, gave me an increased knowledge of men and things, and is still recurred to with satisfaction. I need not caution thee to avoid frivolous exhibitions, or advise thee to be careful in the selection of the many things worth seeing and hearing in London. But I would carefully avoid feeding excitement, do not love it, but if it be found gaining undue ascendency, exercise self-restraint and self-denial, rather than suffer it to grow; the unlawful enjoyment of lawful self, not being of faith, is sin.

A tender father's love to thyself,

Thine affectionately,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS ELDEST CHILD.

In congratulating thee, my dearly beloved daughter, on the completion of thy 21st year, when the rights and privileges of womanhood are accorded to thee, and its responsibilities increasingly rest upon thee, I am led to recur to the remarkable evening, when thou wast first laid on my knees, a helpless, tender babe; the scene is vividly before me, and some of those aspirations which were then raised in my heart, are renewed with fervency, and with all the emotion of parental tenderness.

I remember that when, after supper, dear Aunt Pumphrey and myself sat down with the servant to our usual Scripture reading, the 127th Psalm fell in course, "Children are an heritage from the Lord;" such did thy precious mother and myself regard thee; and though with manifold infirmity, and unfaithfulness in many respects, I believe it has been our sincere desire to occupy the heritage, as the Lord's stewards, and to train them up for Him. My beloved partner is gone to her account, has rendered up her stewardship, and I doubt not has, in great mercy, received the answer of "Well done." You are still favoured with a tenderly interested mother, who endeavours I

believe in the fear of the Lord to act her part faithfully towards you, and to strengthen my hands as a parent.

May we all unite in praising our merciful heavenly Father, for the blessings temporal and spiritual, which He has bestowed upon us. From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through the faith which is in Christ Jesus. To enable thee the more easily to refer to the Sacred Writings, and to compare part with part, I present thee with a good copy of Cruden's Concordance, which will be here to-morrow from London. Accept it as the visible embodiment and representative of thy father's love, which in the words of his Lord would say to his beloved daughter, "Search the Scriptures," diligently, devotionally, and daily, but be not like the Jews, who outwardly reverenced them, but came not to Him of whom they testify that they might have life. Mayst thou, my dearest Anna be of those, who not only come to Jesus, but faithfully abide with Him both in heights and in depths, to the end

of thy days on earth. So, often—and so, on this important day, prays

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 16, 1850.

My dear George,

* * Thou art aware, that whilst activity, energy and promptitude are essential, more depends upon management, forethought and good arrangements, than upon bustle; indeed the bustler never succeeds well, but is a source of discomfort to himself and all about him: even the slow plodder is better than he. But that which gives stability to all our arrangements is conscientiousness, doing what we do as unto the Lord, and not unto men; this excludes eye-service and mere men-pleasing, and when united to those natural qualifications which may be essential to the efficient discharge of the duties of our position, makes the upright, clever tradesman. Such I hope, nay, I pray, that my dear boys may both become.

I incline to offer a word or two relative to thy colleagues. I know not what thy position involves, but if anything of direction, let it be

(where thou canst believe it will be equally effective,) in the way of suggestion, rather than dictation. Now for thy weak points: put away frivolity, and the undue love of fun and merriment; these are not so befitting the young man of twenty as they were the boy of fourteen. Educate those clumsy fingers of thine, whether they are guiding the pen, or packing the parcel. Be satisfied with nothing that is slovenly, and when you are not pressed with business, try to be neat rather than quick, the latter will follow if the other be acquired.

Ackworth School 10th mo. 17, 1850.

My dear Anna,

I think my letter yesterday left me travelling from Milford to Swansea. Kidwelly is a sad, decaying place, (I counted 20 houses including a chapel unroofed and in ruins,) but very picturesque from the style of the buildings; the chimney stacks rise from the ground outside the front of the house, and the town is, I understand of Flemish origin; several of the towns in these parts were the seats of Flemish settlements, the woollen manufacture being introduced here from Flanders: it gives the places, in connexion with the costume of the

women, and the Welch language which is universally spoken amongst the poor in the northern and eastern parts of Pembrokeshire, a very foreign character: in the south and west English is generally spoken. The beautiful black cattle of Pembrokeshire with white horns are another striking characteristic of this locality.

As we approach Swansea, the smoke and coppery effluvium of the copper works are very unpleasant; it has been remarked that one feels as if one always had a halfpenny in one's mouth. I did not however perceive this; the desolation on the eastern side of the town is complete; cattle are obliged to be frequently changed, as their knees swell, their teeth loosen and come out, and their general health fails. It is not equally noxious to the human subject.

D. P. Hack and I had both considerable service in the Meeting at Swansea on First-day morning. I had principally to show the utter hopelessness and helplessness of man in the fall, and his only means of restoration through Christ; that this was an individual and inward work, wrought by the power of the Spirit in the soul,—that this might be resisted,—that great was the long-suffering mercy of the Lord; to

the acceptance of which in the day of visitation an earnest exhortation was offered.

Third-day morning: we set off for Ross, by rail to Chepstow, thence in a large, open barouche; the day was beautifully fine, and the company of the first character for intelligence and piety. The line of railway is for the most part flat and uninteresting, through a marshy country, but there are some very picturesque views. At Margam the woods were beautiful, and the mansion in a fine situation, overlooking the Bristol Channel, there are the finest and most extensive orangeries there of any in the kingdom. I was much interested in observing the cranes standing in the marshes looking very observant and sharp.

At Chepstow, which is a town of considerable trade, and containing some good shops and houses, and a ruined Castle of most romantic and picturesque character, we commenced a journey, exceeding in beauty anything I ever saw.

The route lay nearly all the way to Ross on the banks of the Wye, following to a considerable extent its singularly meandering course. From the top of the hill just above the town we get a beautiful view of the castle, and the lofty cliffs

descending perpendicularly to the water's edge, on the opposite side of the river; these are crowned with overhanging wood, and in the distance is the noble Severn, with the Somersetshire hills in the horizon: proceeding a little further we pass, and for a considerable distance skirt the lovely park and grounds of Piercefield, once the residence of the amiable and talented Elizabeth Smith. But all the beautiful scenery which we had yet seen, or had yet to see, was almost insignificant when compared with the view from Windcliff; a bright sun, a sky covered with fleecy clouds of elegant forms, woods rich in all the variety of autumn's tints, hills and valleys of bold and beautiful sweep, perpendicular cliffs, the Wye some hundred feet below, at half tide, and that morning the tide, which rises higher at Chepstow than any other place in the kingdom, stood sixty feet at the bridge: the Severn, enlivened with numerous sails, the rocks of Windcliff rising several hundred feet above us, clothed with yew and beech, varying in every shade from green to deep brown and red,—"each gave each a double charm, like pearls upon an Ethiop's arm." It is the most perfect prospect for beauty I ever beheld. Having vainly attempted

to sketch this so as to convey to thee some of the pleasure I derived from it, I will merely state that the whole ride was a series of beautiful views of similar character, though not equal to this nonpareil. Whilst the horse baited at Tintern, we rambled through the ruined Abbey, one of the finest ecclesiastical ruins in the kingdom I believe; it has been so often described by pen and pencil that I will only say I have seen no delineation which comes up to the original.

Monmouth is quite a pretty town, with good shops and many genteel houses; we crossed the Wye again here, and after passing Goodrich Castle and that at Wilton, we once more passed over it at Ross bridge, reaching our destination about half-past three. I had some ministerial service in the meeting of ministers and elders, especially encouraging the members to yield their minds to any impression of duty, or gentle drawing, to visit the solitary members and little meetings within the district. It was a solemn, good meeting, so was that, the day following, at which fully one-fourth of all the members of the general meeting must have been present, probably nearly 100. I had some vocal service

in setting forth the character of the doctrine of our Society, and of the instruments of its early propagation, calling to a recurrence to first principles, and to faithfulness in that which is the least.

In much united love to you all very dearly,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 10th mo. 19, 1850.

My dear Thomas,

I am rather jealous of the effect of your little debating society. It is seldom that such associations result in much advantage. They offer strong inducements to contend for victory rather than truth; rather to exhibit ingenuity in argument than sound reason if one's side of the question is weak. It has often, very often been found that young men, in such meetings, get into metaphysical disquisitions, in which the inexperienced may easily puzzle themselves as well as others; and I have known several drawn, by these means, into the vortex of infidelity.

1st mo. 11, 1851.

My dear George and Thomas,

I wish you to to be economical, that is the duty of all, but not stingy. Pay what you owe punctually and cheerfully; when you get your accounts, do not wait to be called upon for the money, but call, with as little delay as may be, and settle the account. Tradesmen are often afraid to call soon after delivering a bill, lest they should offend their customers, and they are thus frequently put to considerable inconvenience. Thus prompt payment becomes a christian duty. Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye also so them.

Remember the poor, but do not be careless or indifferent even in your little charities. However small your allowance, or the surplus of it, after your needful wants are supplied, it is only yours as stewards; be faithful in that which is the least, feeling your responsibility, and then, if ever larger means are placed at your disposal, you will be likely to be faithful in that which is greater. Neither lavish or self-indulgent on the one hand, nor stingy or grasping on the other. It is always more blessed to give than to receive.

Your tea-party appears to have been very interesting and well arranged; there is no part of your philanthropic labours that I am so much interested in as the First-day School. I believe whilst you are communicating an important benefit to the poor boys who attend, you are yourselves in the way of gaining much useful experience of yourselves and of the world.

With our united very dear love,

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 31, 1851.

My beloved Anna,

I have risen at six o'clock, partly with the view of commencing a letter to thee. We seem to have heard but little about thee since thou left us, but that little has been pleasant. Amongst kind, intelligent friends, and in a richly cultivated district [Herefordshire], at a beautiful season of the year, thou canst scarcely fail to enjoy thyself, if the internal requisite of a peaceful, cheerful spirit, is not wanted. How true is the sentiment of the christian poet—

Give what Thou wilt, without Thee we are poor,
And with Thee rich, take what Thou wilt away.

We have heard but little of the Yearly Meeting, more especially of the men's meeting. From what we hear, I trust the Church thus gathered together, has been owned by its holy Head, and that Friends have been bound together in some good measure of the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

Feeling an unwavering assurance that Friends hold the doctrines of the Gospel in purity and simplicity; my heart often mourns over our unfaithfulness in upholding them in spirit and in practice, and I desire that I may mourn chiefly over my own shortcomings, lukewarmness, and unfaithfulness; and that the lamentation may not be a heartless, paralysing lamentation, but one which would lead to the girding up the loins of the mind, and induce to greater humility, watchfulness, devotedness, and fidelity. And oh Lord! that my children might live before Thee, in the true fear of Thee their God and Saviour; in the principles and faithful practice of genuine Quakerism, of true Christianity. Such is my present, as it is my frequent prayer for you my beloved ones. This is beyond all disputation, and it leads out

of it, for it leads into great lowliness of mind, into great simplicity of faith, and this into great cheerfulness and promptitude of obedience: and in cheerful obedience we generally find the path of present duty plain and clear. In this spirit we neither take upon trust of other men, (though often upon trust of God,) nor do we reject in haste, because we cannot altogether understand; wisdom is not dogmatical, because she is humble, and her humility also preserves her from scepticism.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 2, 1851.

My darling Girl,

As this is the fourteenth anniversary of thy birth, I incline, though my time is very limited, and I have nothing particular to write about, to greet thee upon it with my parental good wishes. And may I not express them in the words which thy honoured Grandfather Pumphrey addressed to my brother Samuel on his birth?

Heaven bless thee my darling, nor do I speak lightly,
But feel the whole force of the words I express;
Well I know that its blessing alone can preserve thee
Alike from vain folly, from pain and distress.

Thou art now arrived at an age when thou shouldst be reflective and thoughtful, giving thyself time amidst thy many enjoyments to meditate on the great purpose of thy being, and seeking by prayer for that change of heart, without which thou canst not enter heaven. How manifold are thy privileges, indeed thy young years seem brimful of earthly happiness, then let thy daily conduct bear evidence that it is the sincere inquiry of thy soul, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits?"

Dear Thomas and his intelligent companion set off this morning for London; I took them to Knottingley, the morning was beautifully fine, and they were anticipating much rational enjoyment from the novel scenes they expect to behold in the great city. If our anticipations are realized, it may be our privilege to form quite a family party in a few week's time with the same object. At the age to which dear mother and I have arrived, we regard these things with chastened feelings, we are prepared for disappointments and drawbacks, but you that are young have not yet gathered the experience, which produces this chastened feeling: everything looks bright, and hope is in the ascendant: it is mercifully ordered thus:

and in thus endeavouring to promote your pleasure in a way which I think will instruct and expand your understandings, I recur to the great enjoyment and instruction I derived from my first visit to London thirty-one years ago with my dear brother Samuel, now, I doubt not, proving that high as these pleasure were, they are not to be compared to the joys of God's salvation. And now, my precious child, *farewell*, remember the full import of the word; it includes doing as well as receiving.

Thy dear mother unites in a great deal of love to thee with

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School.

My dear Thomas,

* * Circumstances will often occur in life, in which between two parties, it is not easy to see a clear course; we have then deliberately to balance all the considerations and decide as appears best. If then, we still happen to have grieved one party, we must not attempt to do much in the way of justification. Clear explanation is due to all parties, but this furnished, and regret expressed that our motives have

been misunderstood, we do best to leave it, and to show by our future conduct, that even if we have been wrong, it is an exception to our ordinary course.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GIRLS' WING.

The benefit to the boys from the increase in the number of school-rooms, and the greater airiness of the apartments, was so manifest, that an earnest desire prevailed among Friends that similar benefits should be conferred upon the girls. In 1851, on the recommendation of the General Meeting, a second appeal was made to the liberality of the Society, and the sum of £2,700 was promptly and freely offered. The wing was raised about four feet, corresponding with the change on the boys' side. The dormitories were increased in number, and greatly improved in comfort and ventilation. The number of class-rooms was increased, and private apartments were provided for the governess and teachers. A spacious arcade

for the girls to take exercise under cover, occupied the basement story of part of the new buildings. The balance of the sum so freely contributed, was applied to the purpose of procuring an additional supply of water. A bore hole eight inches in diameter and one hundred and forty feet deep was pierced, and water rising to within ten feet of the surface, furnished a constant, unvarying supply. By the power of steam it is raised to a cistern resting on the main walls of the centre building, and is thence distributed wherever needed.

Shipston-on-Stour, 9th mo. 8 1851.

My dearest Isabel,

Almost my only time for writing is before breakfast, and for this object and for travelling I am become quite a reformed character, seldom being in bed much after six o'clock. Since I wrote last I have received dear Anna's and thy interesting and acceptable packets, both containing much instructive information respecting the close of dear Samuel Clemes. What a sweet exit he has made; I hope that his expressions will be preserved, for

they beautifully accord with his meek, gentle and lamb-like life, and it will be desirable I think to preserve a brief memorial of him, for the edification of survivors.

I can fully understand the difficulty of opening out one's internal feelings even to a bosom friend, for I feel it myself and it is therefore well sometimes to do it by letter.

I believe a low estimate of our condition is the natural effect of true humility, and as to the watering, I believe the root is often nourished by hidden springs, when the mere surface is dry and parched. However it is well to be of good courage, to have strong faith in the loving kindness of the Lord, to wash and anoint, that we may not appear unto men to fast; this is often thy poor husband's portion, and my natural spirits are, I doubt not, helpful to me in this respect; but still there is often an under current of discouragement, and the sack-cloth of mourning over my own low state, has often, very often, been worn.

On Seventh-day we entered on a long day's journey of upwards of thirty miles, stopped to look at Armscott Meeting House, at which an annual meeting is held, and which is thronged to excess without invitation. Very near it is the

house from which George Fox was committed to Worcester Gaol, and which, though not occupied by any connected with our Society, has been for 200 years, an open house for Friends; food and shelter being always liberally provided for them.

In the afternoon we rode three miles to Brailes Meeting, attended a First-day school of about fifty children, provided and almost conducted by G. F. Gillett, an Ackworth scholar about eleven years ago. His father and he are agricultural instrument makers &c.; and the school is in one of their workshops, though the work-benches, strewed with tools, surrounded the room, it was clean and comfortable, and altogether was the most interesting school of the kind I ever visited. G. F. Gillett has an evening school in the week, which he conducts pretty much himself: we were deeply interested in his proceedings.

Thy affectionate

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

This interesting visit appears to have occupied about two weeks, during which Thomas Pumphrey was brought under close exercise, and was largely engaged in ministerial labour to good satisfaction.

Ackworth School, 10th mo. 13, 1851.

My darling Girl,

And so thou art studying Euclid, and has already crossed the Pons Assinorum; it is so long since I was upon it, that I really forget its construction, or what kind of a view we see from it, and should be much interested in hearing something about it. I remember so much of Mathematics, as to know that we were not allowed to guess anything, but proof, proof, proof, was everywhere required, and I see very distinctly with my mind's eye, those interesting capitals Q.E.D. at the end of my proved proposition: they might oftener have stood with me for "*Q*uestion *E*xceeding *D*ifficult," than for the Latin words which they are intended to represent.

To think that this is probably thy last year at school! it is really a serious thought, though perhaps a very pleasant one to thee; in order that it may be so in the retrospect, strive to improve it well: and as it passes away, to store thy intellectual hive with the sweets of useful knowledge. Perhaps the past has not been so diligently occupied at all times as it should; let this consideration—a painful one, when we

think of the great value of time—stimulate thee to redoubled effort; it is thy privilege, as well as thy duty, and will ensure a rich reward. I observe that your attention was directed to the splendid sky on Sixth-day evening last. I have seldom, if ever, seen anything to equal it. Not only in the beauty and variety of the tints, but in the magnificent grandeur and wildness of the arrangement. How greatly do these "gorgeous pageants hung on high" increase the beauty of an English landscape! and though, of course, we can but imperfectly imagine the beauty of a clear, deep blue, unclouded Italian sky, yet I think I should not be willing to exchange our splendid clouds for its cerulean purity. I remember thy dear uncle Isaac saying that it was quite wearisome to see the sun travelling through the dark blue heavens without a single attendant cloud to cheer his progress, from morning to night, and day after day.

Farewell, my dear girl.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSEPH ROWNTREE.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 16, 1852.

Yesterday was a season of sweet refreshment and encouragement; thy kind note in the morning was truly acceptable; (how strengthening is Christian sympathy!) and in the evening, the observing a "sparrow alone on the house top" quenching its thirst at a little pool of water on the leads, from the drawing-room window, revived my confidence in Divine protection and watchful care over me and my own dear children, and this Institution on its re-gathering, in a wonderful and mysterious manner. What feeble means our heavenly Father often uses for our deep instruction; teaching us humility on the one hand and not to despise the most insignificant instrumentality!

Ackworth School, 9th mo. 8, 1852.

My dear Thomas,

I do not forget that to-morrow thou attains thy 20th year. Although I am not an observer of these days as some, I do very earnestly and affectionately desire that thy retrospect of the past year may be comforting and thy resolves for that which is forthcoming, may be sincere and in the fear of the Lord.

Thou hast been much with me mentally since thy return to York without thy dear brother. What a privilege it has been to both of you to have been so long associated together, and what a still greater privilege that you have been so affectionately united! It has led me to recur to my early days when my dear brother Samuel and I were brought up under one roof, and most closely bound to each other in brotherly love, and during the later years of his life, in christian love also. He was about 14 months older than I, and much my superior in religious growth and christian stability; and his influence over me was powerful, though it was almost entirely the influence of consistent example and Christ-like gentleness. I remember the weight of his spirit in meetings, and as I write, I picture his image, as under various circumstances he is brought into the view of my mental vision. He was only 25 when he was removed to his heavenly rest, and I was left for other service, which, whatever others may think, I am deeply conscious has been very imperfectly, and with many falterings performed.

I hope thou art getting on comfortably now thou art left alone, endeavouring to discharge

thy duty faithfully to thy employer, and to walk humbly before God.

I am anxious that thou mayst esteem nothing trifling, which may in any way interfere with thy religious progress, add to thy temptations or weaken thy safeguards. Dress, language, manners, all have their influence, and when thou art my age, thou wilt be better prepared to appreciate the force of this truth.

Religion, however, whilst it regulates these and preserves us in christian consistency, is not these, nor these it: it lies deep in the sense of our corruption in the fall, of our utter powerlessness to raise or to heal ourselves, and of the preciousness of that redemption which is wrought for us, in and by Jesus Christ our Lord: and it manifests itself in the surrender of ourselves in all things to the service of Him who has bought us; in the daily submission of our wills to His; in the unreserved obedience of the heart to the inspeaking voice of the Spirit, in His gentle yet powerful restraints and constraints, not only in greater things but in what the world calls trifles; in the faithful taking up the cross, (there is fulness of meaning in the words) and following our Saviour.

These are my first desires for thee; next

I want thee to learn thy business thoroughly; to bottom everything, not to allow thyself to be drawn off, by the accidents and circumstantials of a thing thou art trying to make thyself master of, from the thing itself. I often wish I had more the power of abstraction; it is a valuable faculty, not only as helping us in the doing of what we are engaged in well, but in enabling us to keep the whole clearly in remembrance. Thou art just entering on thy last year as an apprentice: determine, that, divine grace assisting, it shall be thy best year; thy best in the all-important subjects to which I have referred, and thy best in the acquirement of a sound knowledge of thy business, and of business generally. The temptations in trade to little meannesses, to unworthy tricks, not to speak of greater immoralities, are marvellously diminished by a man understanding his business in all its departments; in buying, in mingling, so as to suit his customers' wants and tastes; in selling, in address and courteous manners, in promptitude and punctuality, in managing his stock and keeping his accounts, and shall I add, in carefully limiting his expenses.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Cullercoats, 9th mo. 21, 1852.

My beloved Anna,

My letter to thy dear mother contained a short notice of a nice temperance meeting held here on Sixth-day evening, thy Uncle G. in the chair, making two nice little addresses; a Temperance missionary from Newcastle and myself also speaking, and thy honoured grandfather (G. Richardson), concluding with one of his beautiful, persuasive admonitions, full of the milk of human kindness, and breathing the spirit of Divine love. It is deeply instructive to be with him, to observe his unwearied labours, his diligence—doing whatsoever his hand finds to do with all his might—his simplicity, his singleness of purpose, (for whatever he does, his end and object are the same, to promote the good of his fellow creatures, for the love of Christ,) his love, his cheerfulness, his perfect happiness, except as it may be disturbed by mourning over sin or suffering. He is the most Christlike man I ever knew, and unspeakably great is our privilege to be related to him as we are, and beyond estimate, the blessing that his life is perserved to us and to the Church to old age in all its brightness—his judgment, so far as I can see, as clear and

sound as ever. Yesterday he [in his 78th year] walked to Lowlights, crossed the river in a small sculler boat, transacted business in South Shields, walked as far as the Ferry, and having crossed by it, again trudged on foot to Cullercoats; on his return, the lady who has provided the boat for the poor family, which I named in my letter on First day, the "George Richardson," was waiting to speak to him; before she left, a Methodist minister from Newcastle, who had come over expressly to consult with him, came in. In the afternoon he was engaged in superintending the finishing of a small pond which he has been having made for the use of the villagers, to prevent the need of the poor women carrying water for washing and domestic purposes, from the spring on Cullercoats sands.

At six o'clock he went to the school-room to teach a class of six or seven young women to read; this is his regular evening occupation; last evening about twenty came, but as he could not manage so many, he talked to them, gave them books, and encouraged them to instruct themselves and one another at home: this little class makes good progress. At half-past eight he returned, tired, more than usually deaf, and his hand, as he eat his supper of bread and

milk, trembling much, evidencing that he was rather overwrought, but so cheerful, rather enjoying the gentle scoldings we were giving him, and replying with pleasant humour. He had scarcely finished his meal, when the poor fatherless boy, for whose use the boat is provided, came to receive his instructions, and to be informed the conditions on which the boat would be lent.

The dear old man entered into his circumstances, pointed out his duty to his mother and family, to his friends who were assisting him, to himself, and to his Maker, and half-past nine had arrived before this service was finished. This is only a sample of each day's engagements: "In labours more abundant," it may be aptly said. This morning is very stormy with some rain, but he is gone out canvassing for the Bible Society amongst the poor, not for subscriptions but to collect for Bibles with one of the pious fishermen for his colleague. Since breakfast he has been quite merry, playfully pretending there was some secret in something he was engaged in, which E. and A. were wanting to find out, and then letting them see it was no secret at all. A truly happy old age. With such an example before us, daily illus-

trating the Christian character in its practical working, how great is our responsibility if we neglect the admonition, "Whose faith follow, considering the end of his conversation, Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever."

Thy letter to hand yesterday morning was very acceptable and very comforting. I am thankful thy bodily strength is equal to the demands upon it, and that thou seeks and receives help from on high for the important service in which thou art at present engaged. [The temporary care of the girls out of school.] I believe it will enlarge thy self-knowledge, deepen thy christian experience, increase thy capacity for sympathizing in the joys, troubles, and temptations of children, and in the trials and discouragements of the teachers; whatever does this, draws the bond of brotherhood more closely; and whatever helps us to see our own weakness and infirmity and sinfulness more clearly, is calculated to bring us nearer to God in prayer, and in child-like reliance not only on His power, but on His infinite mercy in Christ Jesus.

That this may be thy blessed experience, my precious daughter, and that of thy dear brothers

and sister, as well as our own, is my frequent and fervent prayer.

Thy late illness has, I thankfully believe, been sanctified to us all; if it were possible we love one another more; and I am greatly mistaken if it has not been instrumental in increasing our love to that gracious God and Saviour, who redeems our life from destruction, and crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER VII.

Progress of Improvement—Girls wing remodelled—Swimming Bath constructed—Additional means of intellectual improvement — Changed character of the walks — Juvenile Societies — Excursions — Lectures — Thomas Pumphrey's poetic taste—Letters to his children and others—to his son commencing business—on losses in business — to a young friend coming forward in the ministry—Review of a quarter of a century's service.

In the last ten years of Thomas Pumphrey's administration, progress continued to mark each succeeding year. The last of the considerable building operations was, as we have already noticed, the remodelling of the girls wing in 1858. In the year 1859, a spacious swimming bath, one hundred feet long by thirty wide, was constructed, supplied with water by the power of steam, and provided with accommodation for the children of both sexes. Those only who remember the old bath, its pit-like dimensions, and repelling aspect, can fully realise the change to the

new. The expense of the new baths £460 was chiefly defrayed by the liberality of some of the old scholars.

Probably in no respect was progress intellectual, more marked, during the last quarter of a century at Ackworth, than in the large addition to the means of acquiring knowledge by voluntary effort, and by other means in addition to the enlarged curriculum of school study. A juvenile Society of Arts cultivated taste and skill in drawing, planning, mapping, penmanship, and kindred pursuits. Classes were formed in Conchology and Botany, adding greatly to the interest of their walks. These had long ceased to be processional and objectless, two and two, two and two, ninety times repeated. Not only had this formality disappeared, but going out in smaller detachments, and rambling almost at pleasure, they searched the brook to enrich their aquariums, the hedgerows for plants, and the ditches and banks for shells, for their botanical, conchological and other collections. In these studies their teachers

afford them valuable assistance; and thus new bonds of association and friendly intercourse are established and maintained. An Essay Society has for several years fostered the budding genius of young authors. In the session ending in the summer of 1862, sixteen meetings of this association had been held, and fifty-nine essays produced. Occasional excursions to Pontefract, Leeds, York, &c. have been amongst the recent means of encouraging diligence and good conduct; and at the same time of enlarging the bounds of knowledge in various directions.

Lectures were greatly increased in frequency and variety. Thomas Pumphrey as we have already noticed, occasionally contributed. His last effort of this kind was a lecture on the great Exhibition of 1851, delivered in the sixth month of 1862, as preparatory to the visits which any of the officers or children might pay to the Exhibition then open in London. His lively imagination and love of the humorous, occasionally led to the production of essays that enlivened the social circle around him;

one of these was a humorous history of names, drawn from the long roll of the children educated at Ackworth. From his father he inherited a poetic taste, and sometimes, when his health required enforced leisure, he indulged in composition. Some lines written on the death of Anna Backhouse, on board the Bull Dog war steamer, in the bay of Messina, are a pleasing specimen of his skill.* Within the last few years, a somewhat novel means of instruction and edification has found place amongst Friends; the compiling and public reading of papers, illustrative of christian doctrine and practice. Thomas Pumphrey contributed several essays. Recollections of Joseph Sturge was one.

This essay was to Thomas Pumphrey, eminently a labour of love; and whilst graphic and discriminating, it has throughout, the warmth and glow of christian friendship. He was invited to read it to many companies of Friends in various parts of the kingdom.

His paper on the Hicksite Secession was

* See Appendix.

lithographed, and extensively read in similar assemblies of Friends. He was Treasurer to the Friends' Educational Society, which for many years held its sittings at Ackworth at the close of the General Meeting. He contributed several valuable essays, which were published under the sanction of the society.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 10, 1853.

My beloved Girl,

The vacation approaches very near, when the days will arrive for reviewing the years spent at school, and the old-fashioned unavailing regret will perhaps be expressed, "If I had the time over again, how differently would I use it." It is however profitable to look back as we reach one of those little summits on the landscape of life, and retracing the path we have trodden, see that *there* we have missed our way, and *there* we discovered our error, and after some mishaps again regained the good old path, that *there* our journey was cheered by a pleasant companion, *there* we loitered to gather flowers, and *there* we sojourned to partake of the fruit of the land. It is well to examine the treasures we have stored by the way, and assure ourselves that all we

have stored is worth keeping. If we turn round, and gaze upon the country over which we have yet to travel, the sun is in our eyes, and the scene looks bright, but dazzling and indistinct; nevertheless we can perceive it is not without its dangers, though in the distance they do not look serious, and we are apt to think lightly of them. Reports have reached us of travellers who have gone before us, having met with sad accidents for want of care, from not having consulted daily the Book of Roads, the itinerary of their track, and from being regardless of the directions of their Guide: but we think *we* shall be more cautious, more watchful, and indeed that we have more discernment and discretion. Well, my darling, mayst thou profitably ponder these things, and in true humility and the preserving fear of the Lord, seek to be led safely along; loving to study thy Bible, the Itinerary of the way, and heeding the gentle instructions of the Spirit of Truth, thy ever present and unerring Guide.

We look forward with much pleasure to thy joining us, and we are often planning what is to be done. Prepare thy mind for steady employment, and determine to strive against desultory pursuits and idle habits. A useful

course of reading, always one or two books in hand, study of the languages thou hast been attending to, a fair portion of time to devote to plain sewing and household duties; drawing and fancy work to fill up intervals, and healthy active exercise to promote physical vigour—all this is comprised in those beautifully simple and instructive lines of Dr. Watts':

"In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be past;
That I may give for every day,
Some good account at last."

adapted for a little child, but instructive to the full grown man.

With our united dear love to thee,

I am

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO A YOUNG MAN, ONCE A TEACHER AT ACKWORTH, WHO HAD TO RELINQUISH THE PROFESSION THROUGH ILL HEALTH, AND WHO DIED SHORTLY AFTER THE DATE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 5, 1853.

My dear Friend,

I am much concerned to find thy health continues in so feeble a state; though from the evidence of disease, which thy countenance

and general appearance manifested, when last at Ackworth, I cannot say I am greatly surprised. It is very pleasant to find thou art so kindly cared for by thy valued relatives, and from the tone of thy letter it is evident that whilst partaking of many mercies, thou art favoured with that which the poet describes as "not the least, a grateful heart, to taste those gifts with joy."

It is not probable thou art in ignorance of the great uncertainty of thy recovery, and I trust thou art earnestly concerned to seek for a firm and still firmer establishment on the eternal rock and foundation of all our hopes of happiness. Whether in life or death, or for life or death, there is nothing that can be compared to the faith and hope of those who are in Christ Jesus, mercifully sustained by the arm of a reconciled Father, their sins forgiven, and they at peace with God, through Him who hath made both one.

May this be thy blessed experience, and then whatever may be the issue, thou wilt be preserved from undue anxiety, and thou wilt be in the best condition either to return to the duties of life, or to relinquish them, if such be the divine will.

IN REFERENCE TO HIS SON GEORGE'S PROSPECT OF COMMENCING BUSINESS, AN ELIGIBLE OPENING HAVING OCCURRED.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 20, 1853.

My dear Thomas,

I regard it as another of those outward mercies which have bespread my path through life, and which seem to be descending on my children after me. "Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed"—was a promise so powerfully impressed on my mind in my early manhood, that I am not presumptuous in saying it was made to me, and though many have been my falterings and unfaithfulnesses, so that I am often made humblingly sensible I could not claim the promise, yet hitherto, mercy has covered the Judgment Seat, and all the wants of me and mine have been abundantly supplied.

I sympathise with thee in thy spiritual trials; in the difficulty thou hast in fixing thy thoughts on God, in meetings for worship: it is no new or even passing experience: it is with me a constant struggle, even to this day, and often am I finding myself off my guard, painfully reminded of the experience

which I remember Samuel Gurney once described, saying in the Large Committee at the Yearly Meeting, that he sometimes returned from these meetings able only in the sense of his unfaithfulness to say "God be merciful to me a sinner," but in dwelling under this humiliation it had been blessed to him. Persevere my beloved Thomas, be diligent in drawing near to thy God and Saviour in private, before business, appropriate a short portion of time for retirement, prayer and communion with thy Maker and Redeemer, reading the scriptures devotionally. This is a good preparation for the duties of the day, and it is greatly promotive of that fixedness of the mind, which we desire to attain to in our meetings for worship. The Saviour is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and our heavenly Father pities us with the tenderest compassion, whilst he sees us, endeavouring, though often feebly and faintly, to maintain the seemingly unequal conflict.

Thy dear mother unites with me in much love.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

ON ENGAGING BUSINESS PREMISES AT NEWCASTLE WITH THE PROSPECT OF COMMENCING THERE.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 20, 1853.

My dear George,

In reverting to the proceedings of Second and Third-day last, involving as they do, important results, and we know not how important, both for time and eternity, I feel not only well satisfied, but reverently thankful in the belief that it has been a step taken in providential ordering, and I accept the opening as another evidence of the mercy and loving kindness which have followed me all my life long.

I do not desire for thee great riches, but a comfortable maintenance. My first concern is that thou mayst be a christian tradesman, illustrating in their length, breadth and comprehensiveness, the principles of truth, as we profess them; in the daily transactions of business, exhibiting an unbending integrity, which yields not to those little mean shifts which are too common in the world, a courtesy and disposition to oblige, without servility; a bearing with the unreasonableness of customers when it occurs, as it must occasionally be expected; but I need not enlarge. I trust thy own standard is not

low, and that thou wilt be strengthened to uphold it fully.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

ON THE REMOVAL OF THE CHOLERA FROM NEWCASTLE.

Ackworth School, 10th mo. 8, 1853.

My dear George,

We have felt for thee much in the discouragements against which thou hast had to contend in thy first outset. I have however good confidence that ultimately it will answer thy purpose. The circumstances are clearly of so extraordinary a character, and beyond our control, and we may reasonably believe of a temporary nature, that I think they ought not unduly to depress, and I hope they do not; in the mean time there is much instruction to be drawn from them. In the first place they teach us how little we know of the future, how our cleverest arrangements may be frustrated, and how entirely dependent we are upon the divine blessing for the success of our best plans and most honest endeavours, for the supply even of our daily bread. The Almighty permits some minute insect (if such it be) to attack the

potato, and the whole crop is destroyed; man investigates and theorizes, and applies remedies, but all in vain; year after year the disease appears, and the wisdom of the wise in regard to it continues folly. He is pleased to visit the nations with a pestilence, walking in darkness, and wasting at noon-day. We know atmospheric influences are intimately connected with it, but with all our experience and all our skill, it sweeps away its victims as fearfully as when it first appeared twenty years ago. Thus He would humble man and teach him to acknowledge his might. In the next place, this dispensation may impress upon us a lesson we are slow to learn, that the ways of the Most High are full of turnings (seen as we see them) and that He is often leading us to the point that the devout christian desires to reach, by a path that seems to lead in the contrary direction. Thus we are led to acknowledge that His ways are inscrutable, and to trust Him with unreasoning confidence. I desire that we may all, and especially that thou, my dear George, mayst lose none of the instruction which this lesson is calculated to impart; that in the sense of the mercy which has hitherto preserved thee, in the midst of sickness and

death, thou mayst be encouraged to devote in renewed covenant, the life he has thus spared to the service of thy God and Saviour,—to seek first His kingdom and the righteousness thereof, and in all thy ways (the ways of trade as well as those of moral and religious duties) acknowledge Him, in the full confidence that He will direct thy steps.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSEPH ROWNTREE.

Ackworth School, 11th mo. 9, 1854.

For my part I felt as thou hast felt, little qualification for the work,* except an abiding sense of my own helplessness, and when this is given to us, and not made by us, and when we abide in it, it invariably leads to the footstool of divine grace, through Him in whom we have boldness, to crave for grace to help in the needful time. Thus the Christian experience is realized, "when I am weak then am I strong."

I am thankful to find you have been favoured to get along comfortably, and I trust have been enabled to comfort the mourners, to encourage

* The Visit of a Committee of York Quarterly Meeting to the meetings and families of Friends.

the feeble-minded, and those too prone to look at the clouds and discouraging aspects; to strengthen the weak and to confirm the wavering, and to warn the thoughtless and the wandering, to uphold the standard of pure Gospel truth in various ways and by diversified instrumentalities to preach Christ crucified. Circumstances come to my knowledge from time to time, showing how much good has been effected in the soul of one here and another there, by perhaps a few words fitly spoken in due season, by means so utterly inadequate, as we should suppose, to accomplish the object, that it has afforded me great encouragement on the one hand to sow beside all waters; and on the other it has presented a clearer view of the responsibility which attaches to stewardship.

I am glad you feel it right to meet the dear young people; they are the objects of our peculiar Christian care and concern, interest, sympathy and love. Very many are their temptations and snares; some to open sin and direct violation of the divine law; but I think many more to settling in carnal security, trusting in amiability, in benevolence or in some measure of the Christian standard, which they see prevailing around them. I hope they will be

encouraged to strict self-discipline, willing continually to bring their actions to that light, which being of God, makes manifest what is of God.

I fear our young people are (many of them at least) too little disposed to engage in religious retirement; too little disposed to appreciate the value, the very preciousness of communion with God in prayer, and with their own hearts; thus the religious life languishes, and there is a kind of spurious, or rather imperfectly formed Christianity. Their hope is not the full, the glorious hope of the Gospel; they do not feel the reality of the words "ye are bought with a a price;" and therefore their outward actions indicate that they are their own.

But they need the tender fostering care of their more experienced Friends, and anything which brings them nearer together in Christian interest and sympathy, is good.

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 4, 1855.

My dear George,

I would suggest whether the example of public bathing on First-day is morally good.

I do not wish to enforce my standard of action because it is mine, but I desire earnestly that all my dear children may seek to maintain a high standard of christian conduct, both for their own souls' sake, and for the sake of others, whom they may influence. That is a deeply important declaration of our Saviour to Nicodemus, "He that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God." It is a good thing, in our daily engagements, thus to bring all our actions under review, in the light of Christ's illuminating spirit, that it may be seen whether they are reprovable. It is almost the daily concern of my heart that our young people may deepen, may thoroughly bow the neck to Christ's yoke and follow Him, though it may lead into great straitness, and into making covenant by sacrifice—often deeply humiliating sacrifice—such as the world calls foolish, but which is often really of the wisdom of God.

I am thankful in believing that you love the Lord: towards your parents you are truly filial, dutiful and affectionate; but believing that the call to each of us is to come up higher, I pray for myself and for you that we may respond to it. I never recur to the example of

my beloved brother Samuel, and its influence upon me, without instruction and thankfulness. He was a cheerful, pleasant companion, but there was a sweet seriousness in his manner that gently restrained my love of fun and nonsense. When he reproved, which was but seldom, it was only in a few telling words, but they were sealed by his impressive seriousness, and by his uniformly consistent watchful walk. It was his practice morning and evening, to retire alone, and I can recur even now with emotion to the solidity of his deportment afterwards: at times there was the evidence of what we understand by an exercise of spirit: he had been with Jesus, and after his death we found the records of his faithful self-examinations, his prayers for pardon of those things, which, though they appeared not to man, the swift witness for God shewed him, in the light of Christ, were reprovable. And in these seasons of retirement his soul "wrestled," and the language of his earnest heart was in consonance with that of the patriarch "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me," and he wrestled in the faith that gives the victory. Oh! if amongst our young people generally, there were this inward, daily exercise, "groaning, being

burdened," our society would shine again, and its principles and testimonies would be upheld in renewed purity and power.

In reviewing what I have written, I find that, from a trivial text I have, unlooked for, preached a serious sermon; mayst thou my beloved son, gather from it what is good and worth preserving.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

WRITTEN WHEN HIS SON WAS UNDER DISCOURAGEMENT WITH REGARD TO BUSINESS.

Folkstone, 9th mo. 8, 1855.

My dear George,

Whilst doing the best which the vigorous exercise of thy understanding and energies will admit, do not forget that the ways of a man are ordered of the Lord, and daily cast thy trials and discouragements before Him, seek His counsel and help, and ask Him to bless all that He ordains or permits, to thy highest good. There is a sweetness and a comfort in casting all our care upon a tender compassionate Father in heaven, and in being permitted to know sympathy extended to us in our trials. Mayst thou know them in their

fulness. I have had largely to experience these disappointments in business, and great losses of property by investments failing, and thus I am still kept poor, and sometimes I get discouraged a little; more, I think, on the account of those I may leave behind me, than on my own, but the promise given me about the time when thou wast born, so strongly and fully that I could not doubt it; is, like the manna of old, renewed as I need it, "Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." That my needful wants shall be supplied, is all I have a right to expect, and much more than I deserve. Now I write these things, not that thou mayst feed on my experience, but that thou mayst be animated and encouraged to "Trust in the Lord, and do good," and not to be of "little faith."

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 2nd mo. 2, 1856.

My dear Thomas,

Thy prospect in setting out in life is cheerful and hopeful; but, however well a business is settled, such is the competition of trade, that strict attention and good business

habits, skill in buying well, and care in selection, great prudence and caution, in an excited state of the market, management in keeping up a thoroughly good assortment, without a needlessly large stock, care in keeping down expenses, economy without stinginess; all these are essential to maintain it in efficiency, and like every other machine, it is more easily kept in good working order than restored, if through neglect any of its parts become injured. Do not depend upon others for what thou canst do thyself; have thy dear grandfather's example before thee in this respect: be thorough in what thou does, and master thy business in all its details, adding daily to thy experience, by eye and ear observation. Before all and above all, seek the divine blessing on thy undertakings; it is not in divine ordering to ask it on idleness, neglect or mismanagement. The Apostle expresses in a few words, the qualifications of a christian tradesman, "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

I do not wish for thee, exemption from trials, but I wish that in the hour of trial as well as in that of prosperity, thou mayst flee to the only place of safety, strength and comfort.

Nor do I wish for any of my children riches. During the years of their strength and vigour, I should like to see them obliged to pursue diligently, but always in subordination to higher duties, their lawful callings. I believe it is the happiest and least exposed condition of life: and should declining years be the portion of any of them, that they may be enabled to retire from worldly cares with contentment, on a small competency. The experience of each of your honoured grandfathers, is the summum bonum of my desires for myself and you: no rusting out of life, but an earnest devotion of body and mind to the glory of God and the good of their fellow-creatures.

I think the unchanging adherence to one pursuit, especially if that pursuit be trade, is in danger of forming the sordid character; and whatever it may be, the contracted character—the man with one idea. Philanthropy, science, history, literature are all of service in expanding the mind, and in giving it tone: as we compare the thoughts of other men, we are led to examine our own, and thus we become less liable to be tossed backwards and forwards by the opinions of others, and it is very good to educate the hand and the eye, as well as (but not to the

neglect of) the head and heart: indeed whatever knowledge or skill we possess, comes in usefully some time, and in some way or other.

Well! thou art fairly started in life on thy own account, and my soul breathes for thee the reverent prayer, "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee, and cause his face to shine upon thee, and give thee peace."

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

WRITTEN TO THREE OF HIS CHILDREN WHO HAD JUST COMMENCED HOUSEKEEPING TOGETHER.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 21, 1856.

My dear Children,

It is more than pleasant to think of you as one household and be able thus to address you together. May He who has been very gracious to us all our lives long, continue to be with you and bless you (my first and chief prayer is) with spiritual blessings, not only grant that you may be His own children by a new and spiritual birth, but establish you in His truth, and make you instruments in His hand, for the promotion of His cause, in such way as he may see meet. In order to this, your own wills must be subjected to His in all things,

and you must be willing to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, in the faith of daily self-denial, and humble cross-bearing.

I have said we have been graciously dealt with all along hitherto. I have not used the word as forgetting our trials, losses, and disappointments. These truly "for the present are not joyous but grievous," and it is probable that none of us would choose them, even with the highest views we may entertain of the christian philosophy—that they are good for us, and that we should do badly without them. Happily, we are not required to choose, but they are dispensed by a higher and more beneficent wisdom than ours. I do however deliberately include these trials amongst the gracious dealings. I have proved them to be such in my own experience, and I believe they have proved, and will prove so in yours, "working for you the peaceable fruits of righteousness as you are exercised" by them. I have not unfrequently noticed that even in those particulars to which they appear antagonistic, they are made by a course, circuitous and irregular as it may seem, to promote them eventually.

My next desire for you my beloved children,

is that you may be permitted to have sufficient for your necessities, without undue anxiety, or mental or bodily pressure. There is more than a superficial knowledge of human character and its requirements, in the prayer, "Give me not poverty, lest I be poor and steal, and take the name of my God in vain." Many are the temptations, incident to hard struggling for a maintenance, to do things dishonourable, and opposed to sound christian integrity; and to neglect the daily duties, and slight the daily privileges of religion.

In order that you may have sufficient of "the fatness of the earth," you must be daily refreshed with "the dew of heaven," at least if the one is to be possessed with its true enjoyment; and besides, there are certain conditions, which, whilst it cannot be possessed without the divine blessing or permission, render it, in a certain sense, dependent on ourselves; industry, exercise of skill, judgment, and sound sense and discretion; economy in the conducting of business and in personal expenditure; in the management of the house, moderation; the disposition to be content with our means, and to live always within them, whether more limited or more enlarged, and not to appear what we are not,

and have no claim to be. This indeed is true riches, as applied to things of time, for the man who, possessing his thousands, is continually sighing for his ten thousands, and living in a style that continually keeps him straitened and perplexed, is decidedly poorer than the man who has but hundreds, and circumscribes, (contentedly and thankfully circumscribes) his expenditure accordingly; the latter has even the more extended means and vastly the greater disposition to do good, for "Economy is the true scource of Charity." I remember, perhaps thirty years ago, a quiet reproof of our dear friend Samuel Gurney, to a young man who was vaunting over a gold watch that cost £15, "He did not possess one, he thought he could not afford it." I trust you will always so arrange your expenditure, as to be enabled, with prudence and propriety, to give away judiciously. Be neither lavish nor stingy. I trust so long as you live together, you will live in love, in mutual forbearance, and in mutual consideration for each other's comfort and convenience. How greatly are the enjoyments of a household promoted by the practical remembrance of this word "consideration:" it is due to servants, for it greatly diminishes their

labour and their annoyances. It includes the exercise of that daily self-sacrifice in little things, in order to promote comfort, or even to avoid disturbing arrangements, which largely contributes to the happiness of others, not to say of our own.

I did not intend when I began, to write you such a homily, but I confess my heart was full of warm desires for your best welfare, both for time and eternity; accept it as the first fruits, (after you have been united,) of a father's love.

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 3rd mo. 5, 1857.

My dear Thomas,

The account of your Youth's Meeting on First-day last was very interesting: thy dear Grandfather's autobiographical narration was deeply instructive. I wish I could have it more complete, I think it would be useful to read to our young people: it has been my frequent remark of late, that whilst I would not withhold from our young friends any outward instrumentality that might help them forward in their christian course, that which seemed most needed, was an increased tenderness of spirit and of conscience,

a more steady submission to the inward convictions of the Holy Spirit, and a more faithful obedience to its dictates.

If in the course of the meetings, such as are now frequently had with our young people, their serious attention can be more turned to these all-important considerations, it will be a great blessing to the rising generation; and such practical illustrations from an aged veteran in the Lamb's army, would reach, in some cases, where more abstract didactic teaching would fail to influence.

Last evening (at our Reading Meeting) I. Brown read ten or twelve pages from Geo. Fox's Letters on Christian Discipline,—the object of it, and the spirit in which it should always be exercised. The selection was well made. What a remarkable degree of (may I not call it) prescience that great man was endued with, in the establishment of our Discipline; it is one thing to look back and see how it has worked, and perhaps to observe some apparently weak points, and a very different one to look forward, and see the requirements of the infant church in its growing state, and to provide for them in the wonderful manner, and with the singular wisdom with

which Geo. Fox was enabled to lay down our disciplinary system.

I am,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

WITH REFERENCE TO LOSSES IN BUSINESS.

Ackworth School, 2nd mo. 13, 1858.

My dear Son,

A cross wind has now been permitted; but—let us confidingly remember—permitted by Him who has directed the favouring gales: and we know that under His authority it is declared that "all things shall work together for good to those that love God." There is much comprehended in the words "work together," they teach us that we are not to isolate the Lord's providences, but whatever He permits and whatever He ordains, are to be regarded, not as independent unconnected links, but as a complete, unbroken chain, and it is in their concatenation, in their completeness, in their "working together" that the good results, to those who fear God. We do not, we cannot see this chain from beginning to end; and it is so curiously, wonderfully and mysteriously wrought, that we do not even perceive the connection of the links

or their mutual dependence; but we do know that He who has placed one end upon earth, and holds the other in the eternal world; who has combined all its parts in perfect harmony and maintains their connection unbroken; is not only a loving Father, but is the embodiment of love; therefore we may trust Him in adversity as well as in prosperity, and in prosperity as well as in adversity. And perhaps there is more need of this than we are aware of. The temptation is powerful and often yielded to, to ascribe success to ourselves, our own tact and skill, and we are perhaps less engaged to acknowledge the divine hand, when it blesses than when it chastens.

I feel tenderly for thee. Christianity is no stoical philosophy: it came clothed in humanity, and it sympathizes in the joys and sorrows of humanity; but it looks beyond them; and as it gathers its lessons of instruction from them as they pass, it does not rest in them; its life is not in them; it accepts the one gratefully, and the other, not only submissively, but as it recognizes the heavenly Father's hand, there is a real mingling of thankfulness with the submission.

May this be thy experience, and then

assuredly thou wilt find a blessing in it, rich beyond thy thought.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSIAH FORSTER.

ON SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTION AND THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDS.

5th mo. 15, 1858.

I do feel this branch of education very important, and that we should do our best in simplicity and with diligence; but yet I feel how little there is in our power to do, to bring home the truths of the Gospel to the hearts and consciences of the children. May we livingly preach and illustrate by example, that which we want to see flourishing amongst our young people. Oh! for more ability to be able to adopt the words of the beloved Apostle; "That which was from the beginning, which our eyes have seen, which we have heard, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled of the word of Life. That which we have seen and heard that declare we unto you."

Though absent from the assembly of the gathered Church, as to the body, I shall be much with you in spirit. May He, who first

separated us to be a people, preside amongst you, preserve you in his fear and counsel, guide your deliberations, and enable you to issue the various matters which come before you, to the strengthening and edification of the body, and to the promotion of His glory.

With dear love to thyself and R. F.

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS CHILDREN WHO WERE ON THEIR WEDDING TOUR IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

Cullercoats, 9th mo. 6, 1858.

My beloved Children,

What an expansive idea of the divine beneficence is contained in the words "Who hath given us all things richly to enjoy." Whilst the necessaries of life, the bounties of providence, and the beauties of nature, are thus spread abundantly before us, not only that our wants may be supplied, but that we may derive enjoyment from them, that our happiness may be increased, how great is the danger we are constantly in, of resting in the gift, without recognizing the Giver; of partaking of the benefit without gratitude to the

Benefactor, and even of abusing the good things of God, to our own injury.

When I was a school-boy our master read to us in the evenings from "No Cross No Crown," a most unlikely book, most of us would say, for boys; but so it was, that through mercy, I learnt from it a life-long lesson of instruction: there was much said about the sin of indulging unlawful self, and the sin of the unlawful indulgence of lawful self; and it was this last which was variously illustrated and frequently reiterated, that so much impressed me. When engaged as you are now, this maxim has often presented itself with much force and freshness: and by attention to the limitations of the Spirit of Truth, I have been, on various occasions, enabled to enjoy with a high zest, the glorious beauties of God's earth, and to look back upon the scenes which in possession, have afforded so much delight, with grateful and unalloyed pleasure. "His are the mountains and the valleys His, and the resplendent rivers," says Cowper truly; "His to enjoy," &c. But it is not always so with me; and even in these lawful enjoyments, I have to acknowledge there has at times been an unlawful and unthankful indulgence. I

have a good confidence that your present delightful wedding tour will be one, not only of much enjoyment now, but of sweet and unsullied retrospection. May it be, to the full extent that is good for you! The pious example of Job in the days of his children's festivities, has often stimulated me on such occasions, to offer up my prayers for the preservation of mine, both from temporal and spiritual dangers: it has been thus on your behalf. Nor can I tell you how sweet it is to have you, my beloved children, thus brought in remembrance before the Lord.

May He be pleased in his unmerited mercy to bless you with His heavenly grace, that you may grow together in the knowledge of Christ your Saviour, and be true help-meets one to the other, in the things which pertain to the life temporal and eternal.

As I have recurred to those solemn and irrevocable words, wherewith you entered into covenant with each other, (and I have often recurred to them,) the first and highest wish and prayer of my heart has been, that you may be true followers of the Lord Jesus, and faithful upholders of those views of Christian truth, which the Society of Friends were, I believe,

called to maintain. I hope you will not lightly hold these principles, and then you will not readily let them go.

I have been led on in a strain which I did not foresee when I began this letter; but, if not in exact accordance with the joyousness of your present circumstances, you will excuse and accept it as the expression of a father's love.

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO ONE OF THE TEACHERS AT ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

Cullercoats, 9th mo. 16, 1858.

Very heartily did I respond to thy sentiments arising out of ——'s correspondence. The care of the children of pious parents seems—but I believe only seems—to involve a larger amount of responsibility than the care of others: but even if it really is so, we are more abundantly helped by their labours and their prayers; and I have great faith in the efficacy of parental labour and prayers.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 25, 1859.

My dear Anna,

Thy dear mother has informed thee I dare say, in full detail of my accident: (the

severance of the tendon Achilles). Of course there is weariness both from want of change of position, and from pretty close confinement to the parlour, but it is a great favour to be spared suffering, and to have all my wants so kindly and attentively supplied, so that I have no right or disposition to complain. Indeed, it has led me to dwell much on my mercies, and to thank my Heavenly Father for His super-abounding and unmerited goodness towards me, all my life long.

I have contrasted this little trial with those of varied and accumulated character, which have been apportioned to others, and receiving it as a gentle chastening from a loving Parent, the words of the Psalmist have been often present with me, as those which I can feelingly adopt; "I will praise Thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on Thy name, for it is good before thy saints."

I have often observed that accidents and ailments are rarely thought to occur but at inconvenient times, and in inconvenient places. This however shows us, how few indeed are the times, when we should be willing to be thrown out of our daily engagements, and how "fearfully and wonderfully" we are made, that

ordinarily, our complicated structure works so well; and that, happen when it may, the least disturbance of the natural adjustment, incapacitates us, or gives us no little uneasiness.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO A YOUNG FRIEND WHO WAS COMING FORWARD IN THE MINISTRY.

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 2, 1859.

My dear ——,

It is always pleasant to hear from thee, and thy last introduced me into a fresh and lively feeling of religious interest on thy behalf. I reverted to the instructive counsel to myself, from my beloved and honoured father, when I was about thy age, and in very similar circumstances as to religious position. He did not say a great deal to me, but he watched over me with true parental care, rejoiced when he could believe I was moving safely, and making true progress; but he also saw there were peculiar dangers attaching to my circumstances, and by letter he used, from time to time, to convey to me wise admonitions and cautions, founded on his own enlarged, christian experience. If thou hast access to the Annual

Monitor 1845, thou will find, in the obituary concerning him, some extracts from his letters to myself and others, which thou mayst read to profit. I remember on one occasion, he warned me against being elated after times of marked favour and enlargement, and on the other hand against undue discouragement if such seasons should be followed by a time of emptiness or even of desertion—that such experiences, though not joyous, were very profitable, and should be accepted as evidences of the gracious care of our divine Master. I remember too how tenderly he cautioned me against "adorning myself with the Lord's jewels," remembering the Apostle's inquiry "what hast thou that thou hast not received?" Again he would remind me that the treasure, pure in itself, was received into earthen vessels, and often partook of the taint, more or less polluted, of that which contained it. All these admonitions have often instructively recurred, and I feel engaged to commend them to thy acceptance, knowing how busy the enemy is. The Apostle says "we are not ignorant of his devices;" this has often appeared to me to indicate no low attainment, for they are so subtle, so insinuating, and often so veiled under specious and plausible disguises,

that they require great humility, deep watchfulness, and a clear, anointed eye to detect them. I am comforted in believing that thy first desire is to love and serve thy Saviour who has bought thee, and whom thou canst and dost accept as thy Saviour. Keep near him; read and ponder the epistles of Paul to Timothy and Titus, and whether it relate to youthful lusts which war against the soul, or to thy secular, social or religious duties, mayst thou ever feel that thy only strength and safety are in maintaining a continual nearness to Christ, choosing the good part of listening to his counsels, and in simple faith acting in obedience to them.

With dear love,

I am, &c.

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Having sketched a tour in Cornwall, which was accomplished in the autumn of 1859, in writing to his daughter, he says—

How easy it is to lay all this down on paper, but how many unforeseen events may disarrange everything, and mar all our schemes of enjoyment; and how important it is we should feel this. It is highly important too

to cherish the remembrance, in all our transactions, that we are not independent agents, but that all is subordinate to the will of our heavenly Father. In this feeling of dependence and submission, is our safety, as well as our enjoyment. Disappointments do not unduly depress us, because we recognise His holy hand in the arrangement, and we know that He does all things well; and we enjoy our lawful pleasures with a higher zest, for we accept them as coming from Him, who giveth us all things richly, that we may enjoy them. I never leave this large family, or even look towards leaving it, without a deep and solemn sense of uncertainty; and yet I am able, in the sense of dependence on an All-gracious oversight and control, to leave my cares behind me, so that they do not oppress me with anxious thought. It is, I believe, partly constitutional; but I am thankful for the favour.

How inestimable a gift is a conscience enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and so tender as quickly to perceive and yield to the impressions of the divine reprover! I hope my beloved daughter has sought and found her Saviour, and that she believes in Him, as He alone, in whom and through whom, she can and does obtain the for-

giveness of her sins. The faith of the christian is very simple, but it is powerfully influential, for it works by love, (love to Him who has first loved us,) to the purifying of the heart; and thus we become more and more meet for the heavenly inheritance, purchased for us by the precious blood of Christ. I believe thou feelest the need, the duty, the privilege, the blessedness of prayer; and I trust that in the midst of thy present enjoyments, thou dost not let them interfere with the duty of daily private retirement before the Lord, in the devout reading of the Holy Scriptures, in meditating upon them, in waiting upon God, in self-examination, and in that which self-examination almost inevitably brings, prayer for forgiveness and help. Nor do we omit oft times to exercise in a measure of renewed ability, intercessory prayer for others. How blessed are parents' prayers for children, children's for parents, and prayers one for another. "Prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks," are set forth by the Apostle as of large obligation, extending to "all men." May we walk answerable to our privileges.

We both unite in very dear love to thyself and the beloved ones around thee.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 12th mo. 3, 1859.

My beloved E.

It is a quarter of a century to-day, since I entered upon my present duties; arriving at Ackworth the evening before, after a long and fatiguing journey by coach from Birmingham.

What scenes of joy and sorrow, of hope and disappointment; exercises of faith, and fulfilments of promise: chastenings deserved, and inflicted in loving-kindness; and mercies unmerited, the free gift of my Heavenly Father's goodness, have I passed through and experienced in this eventful 25 years. In the touching retrospect, I can acknowledge with reverent thanksgiving, that goodness and mercy have followed me throughout; blessing very feeble and imperfect efforts for the good of those placed under my care, and graciously pardoning for Jesus' sake, manifold sins and transgressions, omissions and unfaithfulness. Surely I may exclaim (if none besides) in the words of the prophet, "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage, because He delighteth in mercy."

A few more years at the furthest—how little we know whether it may be more than a few

more days—and the night cometh when I can no longer work: may I then work diligently whilst the day lasts, and be favoured with my all-availing Advocate by my side, to be accepted through His merits, by my Lord.

Thy very affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER VIII.

Letters to his nephew—Visit to Ireland—Meeting on board the Steam Packet—Letter in reference to a proposal of marriage—Failing health—A long period of relaxation granted by the Committee—Letters to the scholars in his absence—Letter to Josiah Forster on Moral Discipline and Religious Instruction—George Richardson in his 88th year—Letter to T. and E. on the birth of a daughter—Letter to Josiah Forster on resigning his post—Letters to his children—First step towards leaving Ackworth—A "leaving" party—George Richardson's declining health—His son George's illness—Letter to Josiah Forster on leaving—Resignation tendered and accepted—Letter to Josiah Forster—Retrospective letter to his children—Last letter to his children.

TO HIS NEPHEW.

Ackworth School, 12th mo. 7, 1859.

My dear Stanley,

The death of my beloved friend and all but brother, Joseph Rowntree, is an event which will throw a great deal of added responsibility on me, in regard both to the concerns of the school, and to many subjects connected with the interests of our society; he was so able and so willing a helper, one on whose counsels I could so generally repose.

At our last Committee we were favoured with

Divine help, so that James Backhouse described it as a "glorious" Committee; there were many young members, and a few middle aged Friends of great promise for future usefulness.

Thy affectionate Uncle,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO THE SAME.

3rd mo. 9, 1860.

In all thy movements mayst thou be enlightened to see thy path plainly, and be strengthened to walk in it faithfully. Be careful not to under estimate the christian service there is in the walks of trade and commerce; the man who well illustrates his religion in them, is a powerful preacher of righteousness. I do not think Joseph Sturge would have been by far so useful a man, if he had not been a merchant.

Ackworth School, 1st mo. 12, 1860.

I thank thee, my darling A., for thy warm and tender greeting on the New Year. This time last year, we had just lost one of the dear children, and were soon to follow a second, to the grave. It has in its course, brought with it some deep trials and anxieties; but it has been richly fraught with mercies, and I look back upon it with a thankful heart.

The unseen future we cannot pierce, but if we well and wisely improve the present, we shall, if spared to enter 1861, again have to commemorate the goodness of our God. May He be found of each of you, my dear ones; and building upon Him, may you be firmly established in the Truth, and be honoured of your Lord, as instruments in His hand for the promotion of His cause, in such line of service as He may appoint. This is my chief and my earnest desire for each of you.

With our united very dear love to thyself and G.

Thy affectionate Father,
THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Dublin, 4th mo. 28, 1860.

My beloved Isabel,

We were favoured to reach Kingstown harbour after a very pleasant voyage soon after nine o'clock last evening, being nearly half an hour before due. It was altogether a pleasant and interesting journey.

There has been, for the last two years, a remarkable religious visitation amongst the crew of this and the other Boat, and they regularly have meetings for reading the Scrip-

tures and prayer, during the voyage. When the weather will permit, all the sailors who incline, and are off duty, attend. Samuel Fox, Isaac Brown, John Ford, John R. Seekings and myself attended; others of our party would have done so, but could not manage below deck. An Irish Episcopal clergyman (also a passenger) was present; he read the first chapter of Ephesians, and offered a few practical remarks upon it; after which the crew, eight or nine of whom, including the mate, were present in the sailor's cabin, sung a hymn in Welsh, the clergyman offered a prayer, the early part of it was attended with unction; one of the sailors prayed in Welsh, another in English, and a third in Welsh, I thought with much feeling and power, though of course we could not understand it. They then sung a hymn, after which I felt constrained to kneel down; then J. Ford, then J. R. Seekings expressed a few words, and I. Brown concluded with prayer and thanksgiving. Samuel Fox remarked afterwards, how truly the occasion had been owned of the Lord. Tracts were distributed, and we had a good deal of private conversation with one or other of the men afterwards. This practice commenced about two years ago, with two or three, and has gradually spread

through the crews of the two Boats, the captain occasionally joining them. All understand English, but several are Welsh. Several of them were repeatedly weeping with emotion, but there was nothing of unhealthy excitement about them. It was very touching to see the rough sailors (though some of them especially had deeply interesting serious countenances) thus engaged in heartfelt devotion.

It was a very enjoyable voyage; the sea as calm and smooth as a fish-pond: it became slightly rougher before we got quite across. We were kindly welcomed here.

I am thy tenderly affectionate,

THOMAS.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 14, 1860.

My beloved Anna,

Though my late visit to Dublin Yearly Meeting was an exercising one, and was entered upon in a feeling of deep responsibility, I am able to look back upon it with thankfulness and peace: way was made for our service, in a remarkable manner, and I think we must gratefully acknowledge that we were owned in it, and found a large measure of acceptance with Friends. I was pleased with

my visit to Mountmellick school, and to our dear friend Mary James Lecky's. She has a beautiful place, and is much alone in the midst of a Roman Catholic population, amongst whom she labours, in a quiet unobtrusive way, for their spiritual good. She has about thirty persons employed in her house, garden and farm, all Papists, and these she assembles morning and evening, in an apartment in her house, to hear the Douay version of the Bible read: the gardener, (a Romanist) reads; Mary J. Lecky generally attends, also her farmer and his wife who are Friends. Francis King of Baltimore, and myself were present. The gardener read, and brought out the meaning with good effect. In the chapter read (the 19th of John) there was nothing at all to object to, and on examining the volume afterwards, there was very little indeed to find fault with in the text; "penance" for "repentance" being the chief. In the notes, which however are not very numerous, and which M. J. L. does not allow to be read, there are some papistical expositions. No remarks are allowed by themselves, and when Sybil Jones began to address them, they all rose and went out. On one occasion M. J. L. made a remark on the word

"penance," but they respectfully requested that no comments might be offered. She says she can talk freely to her gardener in private. There was a solemn pause at the beginning and end, and the people conducted themselves, with great seriousness and attention. The knowledge of Divine truth must certainly be largely communicated to these poor people, by this means.

What a deeply interesting work is the life of Stephen Grellet; it will be so to all who read it: it is full of practical instruction, and rich in illustration of our christian principles. To those who knew him, and remember his benignant countenance, his fervent, apostolic addresses, his urbanity, his abundance of instructive anecdote—not a little of which we recognise as we read—the biography possesses an almost exciting interest.

Thy tenderly attached Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS DAUGHTER WHILST ATTENDING THE YEARLY MEETING WITH HER BROTHER.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 30, 1860.

We are much obliged to thee for the nice sketches with which thou hast furnished

us, of the Women's Yearly Meeting. May the privilege of attending these solemn and instructive meetings, be duly estimated by thee, and richly blessed to thy soul. What a weighty responsibility attaches to us in reference to our temporal, and still more largely to our spiritual privileges. Oh that they may never be as witnesses against us, to our condemnation! My thoughts have been more than usually with my dear friends, attending the Yearly Meeting, though I believe I am in my right place at home; and frequent and fervent are my prayers, that nothing may be issued by the assembled church, but what may promote the growth and vigour of the body, and the glory and honour of Christ. It is cause for thankfulness, thus far, that there has been much of mutual condescension and of brotherly love, and that the decisions arrived at, have been with a larger measure of general concurrence, than some expected. The Lord is often better to us than our fears, and this should encourage us to place our trust more unreservedly in Him. For thee and thy dear brother and cousins, I have frequently been brought into secret exercise, that you may become faithful standard-bearers, in this portion of the Christian Church.

Thy dear mother and I have greatly enjoyed reading together the wonderful narrative of Stephen Grellet's Life. It often describes "scenes surpassing fable and yet true:" the self-devotion and self-sacrifice of this good man, are truly apostolic. Cousin H. R. must have almost devoured it, for she says she has just commenced a second perusal. The ruminating process, with good books, is much to be commended.

In much love from us both, to your whole circle.

I am,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO A YOUNG FRIEND WHO HAD ASKED HIS ADVICE IN REFERENCE TO A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.

Ackworth School, 7th mo. 25, 1860.

Fervent are my desires for thee, that thou mayst be preserved in that calmness, and humble dependence on the Lord, in waiting, watching and prayer, in which thou mayst be best enabled to arrive at a right decision, in regard to the subject that has been brought before thee, so intimately connected, as it is, with the comfort and usefulness of thy future

life; and affecting, as it may, thy highest interests for this world and the next.

I concur with thee in feeling, that when placed by circumstances, in a position requiring us to take, or to decline taking a certain course, we do not necessarily get rid of our responsibility, by adopting the negative course: the consequences resulting from refusing to do what belongs to us, are as chargeable to us, as those which flow from doing what does not belong to us, or doing improperly what does belong to us.

I desire for thee, that if thou shouldst eventually accede to the proposal submitted to thee; whatever trials and afflictions might in this changing life result from it, thou should always feel, in the retrospect, that in filial dependence on thy heavenly Father's will, and in the humble endeavour to follow the guidance of His Spirit, thou hadst done thy present best; then the discipline will be received in submission as from His hand, and not as self-inflicted. If the contrary decision is arrived at, (and it will have its issues also) may peace and satisfaction be thy portion, and mayst thou be sustained in the conviction, that it has been thy simple desire to do right. There is sometimes a plain,

unmistakable course for us to pursue, and then, whatever are the difficulties or disadvantages, or oppositions of taste, or inconveniences, all must yield: there is sometimes a more intricate path to be trodden; the general issue must depend upon the balance of various considerations; the understanding and judgment seem to have a more active part to play; we must look at a subject in all its bearings; whilst it may not be hastily put aside, it may not be hastily entered upon; patience is required, the understanding must be cleared, and the judgment chastened; daily prayer for right guidance must be exercised, and submission to act this way or that, earnestly sought. I think this is thy present path. May the Lord be with thee to guide, enlighten and control.

* * * * *

My beloved Daughter,

8th mo. 7, 1860.

Thy dear Aunt's report of thy beloved Grandfather was quite a bright one; she thinks he gains a little strength. How beautiful it is to see the power of the Gospel, and its vital reality, illustrated, first in the early surrender

of the heart and the will to God, in the full acceptance of the Saviour as a crucified and a risen and glorified and living Lord; then fruitful in good works, and in self-denying devotedness to the service of Him who had bought him; in all the relations of life, exhibiting the efficacy of the grace of God; laborious and diligent, whilst strength and ability were afforded, happy and rejoicing in his work; and when suffering and privation and inactivity are the allotment, cheerfully resigned, still joyful in "songs of deliverance." Such has been and is, the life of thy honoured grandfather, and I cannot desire better for his descendants, than that they should follow him as he has followed Christ. * * * *

Ackworth School, 8th mo. 9, 1860.

My dear George,

It is not without considerable thoughtfulness that I look forward to the effect of my approaching relaxation, so kindly and liberally granted me by the Committee. If it should result in a decided improvement of my health, of which I am quite hopeful, it may lead to a little longer tarriance at Ackworth: if otherwise, I should look to a pretty early release, as

I am not able to perform, as they ought to be performed, many of the duties which devolve upon me. Did I tell thee, after the General Meeting, of the very feeling manner in which ——, in the Committee, held after the meeting to make the usual routine appointments, expressed himself towards me, when the subject of providing for the oversight of the school was under consideration. After expressing his regret at the necessity, but his cordial approval of the act of the Committee, he went on to bear testimony, as one who had been under my care, to the value of my services, and his fervent prayer that the Divine blessing might so rest on the means, that my health might admit of their longer continuance. —— followed him in the same strain, and with a similar tribute. I am often humbled in the manifestations of the confidence of Friends, and wonder what there has been in my poor doings to entitle me to it. I believe it has been to a large extent, in having been enabled to exercise a pretty sound judgment in the selection of officers, but even in this how largely am I indebted to my late beloved and honoured friend Joseph Rowntree, and for him, and for all other good gifts, to my gracious

Heavenly Father. How continually do I feel the loss of dear J. R.!

With our unfted dear love to you all,

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSIAH FORSTER.

9th mo. 20, 1860.

I was somewhat surprised to find in looking through the papers on moral Discipline and Religious Instruction prepared by me in the early days of the Educational Society, how little my sentiments were altered by twenty years experience, and how fully the views I then entertained have been confirmed by the changes which have gradually taken place in the School, more especially in relation to the former subject. It would be to me deeply interesting to attend the Conference to be held in the 11th mo. on the revision of the Book of Discipline. But I do not think there is any prospect of it. I trust those who meet will be favoured with a measure of Heavenly Wisdom, and that by it, their understandings will be enlightened, regulated and sanctified. In my study of the New Testament, I see how little there is of absolute rule laid down to be acted

upon, but how constantly great principles are brought out, as those by which the Church and individual members are to be regulated; and in pondering over the history of our own Society, and that of other sections of the Christian Church, I notice the proneness there is to multiply rules and specified directions; and this proneness is the greatest when, vital godliness is lowest: there may be a necessity for this. I am not one who would ignore definite rules altogether, but I would cherish a godly jealousy over them, and be especially careful that instead of illustrating and being subordinate to the principle, they did not stifle and supersede it. Therefore I rejoice in the abrogation of our rules of settlement, and the presenting instead of them, in bold relief, the great duty of Christian benevolence; love to man as the reflection of love to God, and this love manifesting itself in relieving the outward necessities, and sympathizing in all the varied trials of our fellow members.

I rejoice in the modification of the Marriage Regulations, which in practice had so concealed the principle, that, as the discussions frequently showed, many Friends mistook the rule for the

principle; and honestly believed that in altering the one, we were sacrificing the other. Now what I would desire is, that in putting forth a new edition of the Rules and Advices, it should be the concern of Friends to see what Rules can be safely spared; and that the Principle upon which Meetings and individual members ought to act, should be clearly set forth. Our official documents contain ample matter for this purpose. I would also suggest that the Extracts setting forth the Yearly Meeting's judgment and exercise, should not be too exclusively from any one period; but be well diffused, so as to show that during the two centuries of the Society's existence, the principles it has set forth have been harmoniously sustained. Perhaps the later period may rightly claim the larger share, but this will require a guard that the volume is not unduly loaded with Extracts from the more recent Epistles and Minutes.

Excuse these confidential remarks, which I had no thought of penning when I began.

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO THE BOYS AT ACKWORTH SCHOOL.

Worcester, 10th mo. 29, 1860.

My dear Boys,

It is more than two months since we parted; but you have been very often in my affectionate remembrance, and in my petitions to our Father in heaven. I have frequently felt engaged to present you before the Lord, and to pray that He would be graciously pleased to watch over you in His mercy, and not only preserve you from evil, but bring more and more amongst you to a saving knowledge of Christ your Redeemer. "This is life eternal to *know* Thee, (not to hear of Thee merely, but to *know* Thee) the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

Through the kindness of our valued friends, Thomas Allis, Thomas Harvey, and George Satterthwaite, whose christian interest in your welfare we gratefully feel, and by letters from different members of the Institution, I have frequently heard of you. What an unspeakable mercy it is, that good health has been so largely extended to you; and that those who have the care of you, have been spared much anxiety on account of illness! Are we thankful, as we ought to be, to the gracious Dispenser of all

our blessings, for this favour? I fear none of us are sufficiently so. Perhaps we are more disposed to complain and murmur, when deprived for a while of the good gifts of God, than to remember our mercies, and be truly grateful for them. Our common, every day mercies, upon which our comfort, our health, and even our lives are chiefly dependent, are often almost forgotten. Let us be encouraged to think of these things, and in reverent gratitude to ask ourselves "What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits?"

I have just received the account of the characters which the Teachers' observation of your general conduct since the vacation, leads them to assign to each. It is gratifying to me to observe, that with not a few, especially amongst the older boys, there is an evidence of improvement. Let me, in conveying the expression of my satisfaction, offer you a word of encouragement to persevere, and let it not be merely an outward order, and good conduct; but seek daily so to walk in the holy, preserving fear of God, that your ordinary deportment may be the result of religious principle.

"Man judges according to the outward appearance, but the Lord seeth the heart."

How important then must it be to have our hearts clean, and how fervent and frequent should be the prayer to Him who can alone cleanse it, "Create in me a clean heart, Oh Lord, and renew a right spirit within me."

But in looking carefully through the list, there is a feeling of sadness overspreads my mind, in finding that, whilst some appear to advance in what is lovely and of good report, there are others whose conduct has been less careful. It is not needful for me to refer to particulars: each, if he is faithful to himself, will soon be sensible, if he belongs to this descending class; for there is a swift witness for God, in the heart of each; and happy are those who yield a ready submission to its convictions, for it is the Spirit of God striving with us, convincing us of sin, and leading us to repentance and to holiness. Oh! the privilege and the blessedness of always having a tender and an enlightened conscience! But it will not long remain tender if, we harden ourselves against its warnings, its reproofs and its teachings.

As we grow older, our responsibilities increase, with an increase of knowledge, and an increase of privileges: for all these things,

which are intended to be blessings, become an addition to our condemnation, if they are despised or abused. Let me intreat those dear boys, who feel that they have declined, or even stood still, instead of improved, to pray earnestly to their heavenly Father, to forgive them for the past, and to strengthen them to resist every sin, and every temptation to disorder, that the remainder of their time at school may yield to themselves and to their friends increased satisfaction; and what is still more important, that they may stand approved in the Divine sight.

I would once more earnestly press upon you, as essential to your growth in grace, as well as to your preservation from evil, the great duty and inestimable privilege of prayer. The christian, whether he be a child or a man, can no more spiritually live without prayer, than naturally he can live without air.

If you love God, and believe that He is your Father in Heaven, just as you love and confide in your earthly parents, your dear fathers and mothers, you will go to Him, as you would go to them, and tell Him your troubles and sorrows, and temptations and wants, and ask Him to

comfort, and help, and pardon you, and supply all your need.

I think with tender affection, of the few boys who are leaving school on the first of next month, and whom I shall not have the opportunity of seeing again before they go. May they, in their new positions, whatever these may be, endeavour to act as Christian youths, never be ashamed to do what they know to be right, because of the world's laugh, and always be afraid to do wrong; saying to themselves in the hour of temptation, "How can I do this thing and sin against God!" raising their hearts at the same time in prayer to Him, to enable them to resist. Do not talk of little sins; do not let the enemy of your souls deceive you with the thought that any sin can be little, which your own enlightened conscience convinces you is sin. Perhaps Adam and Eve thought their first sin was little; but how awful, and how universal, and how lasting was the consequence. Be diligent in the private, devotional reading of your Bibles; be young men of prayer; make yourselves well acquainted with the Christian principles of Friends—they will bear investigation—and be faithful in maintaining them.

And now my beloved boys farewell. I hope

in a short time to return to my duties, in improved health, and I trust we shall be favoured to meet with mutual pleasure, satisfaction and comfort.

With the dear love of myself and wife,

Your affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 12th mo. 20, 1860.

My dear George,

You are often in our most affectionate remembrance, and I never recollect a time when you all felt nearer or dearer to me, or were more frequently the subject of my fervent prayers. No wonder, considering the subjects of surpassing interest, which are now occupying so much of your thoughts respectively. Our heavenly Father, who has hitherto so abundantly blessed me and mine, has caused us to see and feel, that even the adverse circumstances of our lives, have really been of the number of His rich mercies. In revolving our past experience, the way in which these apparent crosses have worked for our good, has been so largely unfolded to our view, that we cannot but be humbled, and adore the loving-kindness

of the Lord, and surely we ought the more implicitly to trust Him.

The retrospect of our visit to Newcastle is peculiarly sweet and comforting.

To see you all so happy in your prospects, was happiness to us, and fervent have been my petitions, that they may be realized, so as to bless you in the largest degree and highest sense.

"The chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is privileged beyond the common walks
Of mortal life; quite on the verge of heaven."

And this too, was amongst the privileges of our late visit; for surely we breathed something of the atmosphere, and saw a glimpse of the light of heaven, by the bed-side of thy venerable grandfather. He has now entered the 88th year of his pilgrimage; perhaps *he* would call it chequered; *we* should speak of it as one of remarkably steady progress.

I doubt whether he ever floundered in the Slough of Despond, or made much acquaintance with that civil gentleman, Mr. Legality, of the town of Morality; whether he was ever terrified by the threatenings of Sinai, though I do not doubt he has had some combats with Apollyon. He has passed comfortably through the City of Vanity, has stopped but little to

buy its wares, though he has mourned deeply for its citizens, and has faithfully warned them of their dangers. The Hill Lucre has had no allurements for him; and I doubt whether he has ever caught more than a passing glimpse of Doubting Castle, as seen in the dim distance: and as to its grim occupants, I scarcely think he would recognise their photographs. He has kept wide awake, whilst passing over the Enchanted ground, which, even the aged christian has often found it difficult to manage. But what bright views he has witnessed from the Delectable Mountains! We have all of us enjoyed, even his descriptions. He still stands on Mount Clear frequently, and now has so nearly approached the banks of the River, that he can hear the bells of the City, and can perceive some of its glories. Oh for such a favoured pilgrimage! The Lord of the City has been with him throughout. Can we doubt that in crossing the river, he will feel the bottom and find it good? This is as it has seemed to us. I should not wonder if *he* would show some scars, and tell of many deliverances from dangers, into which he had fallen.

In much parental affection,

Thine as ever,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

ON THE BIRTH OF HIS FIRST GRANDCHILD.

Ackworth School, 1st, mo. 11, 1861.

My dear Children,

The intelligence which this morning's post brought us was truly delightful, and my heart unites with yours, in rendering the tribute of thanksgiving and praise to our Father in Heaven for his added mercy. May He be pleased, if consistent with his wisdom and goodness, to preserve the darling babe in health and vigour; blessing it, as it becomes capable of receiving it, with the richest spiritual blessing; that it may be truly, not by any outward rite, but by converting power, "a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven."

I am,

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 3rd mo. 1, 1861.

My dear Children.

The accounts of your and our sweet darling, are very interesting to us. How delightful to see the intellect unfolding, the bodily powers increasing, and to feel that the precious infant is given to be trained for heaven as well

as for earth! May she be spared to you; and may you seek and find qualification to bring the dear lamb to the Heavenly Shepherd!

I often feel that our blessings, though not unmixed with trials, are manifold indeed, and we accept the discipline, not as judgments, but as designed to work out for us, more and more, the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Farewell my dear children: I could enlarge much; but I have written enough for me, and it will suffice to assure you how much I love you.

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

ON RESIGNING HIS POST.

Ackworth School, 4th mo. 24, 1861.

My dear Friend, Josiah Forster,

As I do not wish that thou shouldst hear of the step we are about to take, in any indirect way, I am best satisfied to inform thee, that I have concluded to give notice to the Committee this day week, of our wish to be released from our present position, at the end of the current year. My health, which, for a month or two after our long recess, appeared so far recruited that I was hopeful I might

with propriety, or rather, without much impropriety, have continued to occupy my post for a year or two longer, has so failed again during the last two months, that I am quite unequal properly to attend to my duties; and I must candidly confess I do not attend to many, that properly devolve upon me. This being the state of things, I could not, with due regard to the interests of the school, or with any satisfaction to myself, continue here as Superintendent.

The taking of this first step towards the dissolving of so lengthened a connexion with the Institution, involves some painful conflict of feeling. The best welfare of the school is very dear to us. We are closely united in love and friendship to our fellow-labourers; and amongst the Committee, we number not a few of our most valued friends; whilst to the Committee as a body, throughout the whole period of our connexion with the school, we are deeply indebted for its unwavering support, as well as its cordial sympathy and generous confidence.

With dear love to thyself and R. F.

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 5th mo. 11, 1861.

My dear George,

It is a relief to us to have taken the step of giving notice of our intention to leave, though it involved some conflict of feeling, and when the time of separation comes, it will be a painful severance of very endearing ties. Twenty-seven years will, if our lives are spared to the end of the year, be then completed; and perhaps few public Officers have been favoured, through so long a period, to labour with so little interruption of harmony, with so numerous a corps of fellow-labourers, of various ages, and of great varieties of temperament and disposition, or to be associated with a Committee who have so faithfully watched over the interests of their Trust, and yet have placed such cordial confidence, and extended such warm-hearted friendship to their Superintendent.

The school is at present in an agreeable state; good order and kindly feeling prevail; and we are upon the whole well officered; so that I hope, if things continue pretty satisfactory, our successors will enter upon office under favourable circumstances. I am led to look back on the past quarter of a century with various emotions; and whilst I have to record

trials and bereavements, I can also commemorate the support and comfort which have been mercifully extended under them, and blessings unnumbered, so that my cup has run over. "Bless the Lord, oh! my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

Affectionately thine,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

The following letter contains an account of the last "leaving party" held during Thomas Pumphrey's superintendence. The party included the whole of the children of both sexes, about to leave Ackworth finally, at the vacation.

Ackworth School, 6th mo. 23, 1861.

My beloved Mary Caroline,

After tea about sixty, not including me! joined in a thoroughly hearty game at Tirza, and when we re-assembled, John Newby gave an interesting account of the "Royal National Life Boat Institution," he had a beatiful model of a life boat on the table, and various maps and illustrations. He concluded with the narrative of the Ramsgate Boat,

and it was listened to with thrilling interest. I read the account from this month's "Friend" of the Ants' funeral, and a pretended extract from the "Formican Times," giving the same narrative as written by the Ants themselves—a kind of satire on War and the War Spirit. Then followed the Reports of the children's leisure hour occupations, and the events of the school year, by Thomas Puplett; this was as usual clever, comprehensive and lively. The account of our New Year's Day fete is quite beautiful. The paper included an apostrophe in verse to the fallen Beeches near the Seed-house.

We had not much time for addressing the children, but I spoke to them for a short time, then our evening dessert was brought in, and after reading a portion of Scripture, we had a solemn time of silence, in which prayer was offered vocally, and we separated about ten o'clock.

The accounts of thy dear grandfather indicate that the lamp of life is burning less brightly, and that he, though it may be very slowly, is steadily declining. I feel that it has been one of the greatest privileges, not only of my own life, but of your's, to have witnessed the power of

divine grace, as illustrated, first in the active life of this venerable christian patriarch—active even to old age—and then in the exercise of the passive virtues—scarcely less difficult to practise—of cheerful resignation and humble, patient submission.

Month after month has passed away, and seen the man, accustomed and loving to be doing, laid quietly by; at one time, enduring considerable suffering, though latterly, mercifully spared this trial, meekly and even joyfully acquiescing; revelling in an ocean of love, and sweetly reviewing the past; looking over old treasured stores and when he has turned his eyes forward instead of backward, realizing by faith the glorious prospect, in the full assurance of the promise, "Where I am, there shall also my servants be."

Balaam saw the blessedness of the end of the righteous, and desired it might be his; but he saw not the brightness of the christian's departure. David could say, that the end of the perfect man was "peace;" but Paul, and all who have run in the same course, and fought the same fight as Paul, can say there is more than peace, more than joy, that there is glory

and triumph; but like the cherubim in the vision they cover their faces with their wings, and they say, "Not unto us, not unto us, oh Lord, but unto thy name give glory, for thy righteousness and for thy truth's sake.

Thy very affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

Harrogate, 10th mo. 9, 1861.

My dear H. M.

The accounts which continue to reach us from Newcastle, of the state of dear G.'s health, give us much concern, and we tenderly sympathize with thee in the anxiety which his protracted indisposition must necessarily occasion thee.

We have visited Brimham Rocks, the most extraordinary group of rock (covering perhaps 100 acres) which it is almost possible to conceive, whether we regard the fantastic and singular forms, or the picturesque groupings. A number are rocking stones, so admirably poised, that masses of 30 to 50 tons could be moved by any of us with ease; others standing on little pedestals, that a man might almost grasp,

overhanging on all sides, so that one can scarcely imagine they could resist the blasts of a winter's tempest, yet there they have stood for ages—great blocks of 200 tons weight; but I must not enlarge.

Well, my dear, if thou couldst but see in our beloved G. a re-establishment of health, I do not think there is much besides, in thy outward circumstances to discourage; and well is it for us daily to number our blessings, to commemorate our mercies, and to take our trials and burdens to our gracious Father in heaven, and to our glorified and sympathising Lord: on Him cast all thy burdens, and He will sustain thee.

The prospect of dissolving my lengthened connexion with the beloved Institution feels very serious; the tie will not be severed without a sharp pang, but I do not hesitate to believe, that as I entered upon it in the divine fear, and as I cannot doubt in the divine counsels; so I believe that the right time has come for my release.

Thine in tenderest affection,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO JOSIAH FORSTER, WITH REFERENCE TO LEAVING THE SCHOOL.

Ackworth School, 10th mo. 16, 1861.

My dear Friend,

It will be pleasant to see thee once more at Ackworth, during my term of office. Thou was one of those who gave me a kind and encouraging welcome at the autumn Committee in 1834, and whose kind, christian interest and love, and judicious fatherly counsel I have been privileged largely to partake of in the twenty-seven years which have since elapsed. As the time draws near for leaving, it feels serious, and comes close to our tenderest feelings; but we have no misgivings that the right time has arrived; and I have a humble trust that a suitable successor will be found for the important post. In the retrospect of the long period that I have been at Ackworth, I can say with reverent gratitude, "surely goodness and mercy have followed me" and mine. Trials and deep exercises have been allotted me; and, I am well assured, allotted me in loving kindness, so that I can adopt the words of the Psalmist with much feeling, "I

will sing of mercy and judgment unto thee, O Lord, will I sing."

With dear love,

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

Ackworth School, 1st mo. 29, 1862.

My beloved Anna,

* * * The Committee* was large, twenty-three Friends were present, the business was nicely got through, and at the close of it we had such a nice little meeting. After a short time of very precious silence, in which we were knit together in love, Joseph Pease expressed his kind feelings towards me, and his hopes for my successor. I took a brief retrospect of my pleasant association with the Committee for twenty-seven years, during which I could not recall an uncomfortable feeling: no jar or collision, but kindness, sympathy, consideration, and support. Joseph Thorp, John Ford, William Thistlethwaite, and George Satterthwaite spoke; and, after another truly solemn pause, this my closing meeting with my friends, in our present

* This was the Quarterly Committee, and the last that occurred during Thomas Pumphrey's superintendence.

connexion, closed. We had much enjoyment in social intercourse, and the conversations were lively and interesting.

Thy affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

TO J. FORSTER.

The Cottage, Ackworth, 4th mo. 2, 1862.

My dear Friend,

Thy letter arrived when we were scarcely settled in this snug little residence, where we are now comfortably located. I closed my official connexion with the beloved Institution with the Sub-Committee on Second-day. The parting with the family collectively, at the Reading on First-day evening, was a time of much tenderness to us all, and what is better than even affectionate feeling, we could not doubt the presence and blessing of the dear Saviour, owning us together, and giving the consoling belief that His mercy rested upon those who went and those who came; that though a deep sense of unprofitableness and unfaithfulness, of many mistakes and sins of omission, and of action prevailed, there was a

precious assurance that for Christ's sake, all was blotted out and forgiven; and that in Him and through Him, there was no continued condemnation.

My own health is decidedly improved, but I am continually reminded that I must be careful as to diet, and must avoid much mental exertion. I feel the release from care very acceptable. For the next few months I shall feel it right, I think, to take nothing in hand requiring much mental effort; and if it should then please my Heavenly Father to give me some renewal of mental and bodily strength, I hope I may not be found yielding to any temptation to idleness, but may be willing to serve Him, as He may see meet to lay upon me.

With dear love,

Thy affectionate Friend,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

The following was written to his eldest son and his wife, directly after his last visit to them, when the former was in a declining state of health: it was written less than three weeks before Thomas Pumphrey's death.

The Cottage, 7th mo. 13, 1862.

My beloved Children,

So tenderly does my heart turn in fatherly affection to all of you, that I know not which of you first to address, but after some thought I have decided to place the names of my dear G. and H. M. at the head of this letter. Closely as parents and children, in both your families, have ever been bound together, the lengthened trials of the first year of your wedded life, have shewn us that we very imperfectly knew before, the strength or the closeness of the bond. What an interpreter we have found it of the deep feelings of our hearts! The past week has been to me one of much comfort and enjoyment in your dear society, and that of dear T. and E. and their sweet lamb; and I might mention also, the brief but very delightful communings with the venerable patriarch of our family, and with my long-loved brothers and sisters. True, dear George's feebleness has thrown a chastening shadow over a scene of family happiness, of domestic love, and I rejoice to add, of Christian fellowship, which, otherwise perhaps, might have been too bright for our weak sight, and so our heavenly Father, in His unerring wisdom and

ever-enduring mercy, has seen fit to mellow it. We would not have chosen that even the film of a cloud should have obscured our prospect, so fond are we of unclouded brightness: and yet I never saw in my family, a scene, which to my heart's best feelings appeared so truly lovely. There was no frown of anger upon it, no dark overshadowing of judgment, from which we saw evil gathering; but on the bright lining of the cloud, I could distinctly read for each of us, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth (a Father's hand, holding, guiding, restraining the instrument of infliction,) every son whom he receiveth." "Verily for a few days He chastiseth us for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness." Read the earlier portion of the 12th of Hebrews, and the 4th and 5th of 2 Cor., and may the Holy Spirit apply their blessed truths to your comfort and encouragement. Let us all think of the "few days," the "but for a moment," the chastening and its purpose, the "light affliction" and its blessed results: as I told dear George in one of our walks, that during the last few months, when, as it regarded yourselves, my own dearest Isabel, and myself; we were so led along by a way that we knew not, and could see so little

before us. I have seldom been permitted, (never, unless after the death of my precious Rachel,) to realize in such large measure, the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel to the Christian believer, or the joy and peace there is in believing. Let us then take courage, and put all our confidence in Him who careth for us, and in Him who hath redeemed us. Here we are safe for time, and its duties and trials, and for eternity and its joys. I felt thankful I could leave dear George somewhat improved, and I would fain hope improving.

I am sure I can commend you both to that gracious Saviour who bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead unto sin, should live unto righteousness; who even outwardly, can heal all our diseases, and spiritually will do it, for all who come to Him, believing.

Your tenderly affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

The Cottage, 7th mo. 14, 1862.

My dear Thomas and Emma,

I look back upon the past week with much comfort: though chastened by witnessing dear George's continued illness, it was

a time of real enjoyment of the richest and highest kind, and of sweet spiritual communion with you, my beloved ones. I felt that according to our various measures of experience, there was true unity of spirit in our common Lord.

It was true enjoyment too to play with your and our precious darling, to watch the gentle openings of her infant mind. May you be enabled of the Lord—I use the word reverently and advisedly—to labour together for the training of the immortal mind thus entrusted to your care.

Your dear mother and myself are both quite in our better way; my writing does not indicate much improvement in my arm.

Your affectionate Father,

THOMAS PUMPHREY.

CHAPTER IX.

Thomas Pumphrey in early youth—as a Minister of the Gospel—as Superintendent of Ackworth School—Difficulties of his position—Estimate of character by schoolboys—by young men—Improvements at Ackworth anteceding Thomas Pumphrey's administration—His own testimony to these—His feelings of discouragement and sense of responsibility—His own review of his course—He tenders his resignation—Minute of the Committee accepting the same—His confidence in prayer—Residence at Ilkley—General Meeting—Address to the Conference of Friends on Religious instruction—Illness and death.

We have marked in the early boyhood of Thomas Pumphrey, signs of religious thoughtfulness, and as he approached manhood, proofs of the Holy Spirit's regenerating influence on his heart, leading to early dedication to the service of his Lord. A gift in the ministry was conferred upon him when very young. He grew in the exercise of this gift as years passed away. Sound, clear and edifying, it was increasingly marked by authority, bearing evidence of its spring and origin, and if we may use such a term, it

was at times singularly original. The deep meaning, the hidden instruction to be found in passages of Scripture seldom quoted, seemed unfolded to him, and were conveyed to his hearers in clear, earnest, impressive language. The ripeness and richness of his christian experience, were evidenced in his fervency in prayer, and in the utterance of thanksgiving and praise. His clear and practical judgment rendered his services peculiarly valuable in the discipline of our Society, and made him also a helpful counsellor to his friends in religious and temporal matters. In his parental relationship, Thomas Pumphrey's character shone forth brightly. Patient and playful with the little child, he was yet firm, judicious and kind. As his children advanced in life, he still exercised a powerful influence over them. His ready sympathy in all their trials and difficulties, together with his christian wisdom and experience, attracted both their confidence and love, rendering him in their estimation, not only a loving father, but a wise counseller, companion, and friend.

In depicting our friend, our desire is to attribute all in him that was of good report, as he himself would have attributed it, to the grace of God. In reference to this subject, he says, "I have felt sometimes not a little discouraged at the presentation of the characters of deceased Friends, as though they were of a nature different from ourselves, and knew nothing of the trials and temptations of flesh and spirit, which we experience. They doubtless knew them all; but by the faith which gives the victory, they eventually triumphed, and their Saviour's omnipotent arm, kept them from falling. Observers see—for we are all too quick to see—that which offends: but they see and know but little of the unutterable humiliations, the bitter weeping in secret, the earnest, and, at times, almost despairing cry, 'Lord save me! I perish.'"

Men of strong wills and determined resolves, of decidedly able judgment, of leading minds, and reforming tastes, and fertile in resources, are more likely to make enemies, than the quiet, the common-place, or the timid.

We therefore need not wonder if different estimates of Thomas Pumphrey's character and his worth, were taken by the numerous and various minds with whom he came in such close proximity. Amongst more than four thousand children, entrusted to his care, with minds and temperaments almost as varied as their faces, there must have been many who did not understand him, and not a few whom he did not thoroughly understand. Between such, there must always be imperfect sympathies.

Thomas Pumphrey entered on his post with some disadvantages; the health of his excellent and venerable predecessor, who, for many years, had governed Ackworth wisely and well, had failed. Discipline had consequently become relaxed, and had to be re-established. Bold, resolute, and self-reliant, Thomas Pumphrey, in those early days, often felt compelled to be severe; to have recourse to measures, which now, for many years, have become obsolete at Ackworth. Invested with the government of so large a number of officers, servants, and children, by the aid of

a sound judgment, arriving rapidly at decisions, and with a will, strong to recommend or to enforce them, it may be readily granted that these characteristics sometimes distanced the timid, or offended the dissentient. To some orders of mind he was difficult of approach; he was aware of this defect in his character, and regretted it. In his remarks, quoted above, he puts in, as we have seen, a plea, which will be readily accepted, in mitigation of censorious or severe judgments.

Those who read this narrative and these letters, and who, whilst scholars at Ackworth, felt or fancied that his decisions did not always harmonise with their estimate of what was just, and kind, and sympathizing, will, we doubt not, in some instances, have reversed their youthful judgments. We more confidently still believe, that where there is not this reversal, the characteristic generosity and kindness with which the young man, or the mature man, looks back on the guardians and instructors of his early years, will find a residuum of grateful remembrance. He will probably have learned from his own

experience, how much there is to bear with, in the waywardness of the young, and will rather marvel that his own was so well borne with, than condemn the mode in which it was met. Thomas Pumphrey's own admission in reference to his disciplinary government was, "if I have learned anything as to the training of children, it has been largely through my failures." One young man, admits that whilst a schoolboy, he could not overcome the feeling which kept him at distance, and that his sentiments towards Thomas Pumphrey, in those days, partook more of fear than love. From some apprehension of sternness in his character, he could not feel free with him, and he regretted in after years, that he had thus been prevented from drawing from his stores of wisdom and experience, the counsel that might have been so profitable; "but," continues he, "my recent recollections of him are most delightful; he seemed to live with Christ."

Our narrative has detailed the train of events and the mental exercises which

preceded his entering upon the Superintendence of Ackworth School. In the course of the narrative we have traced the progress of improvement, material and moral, which marked the years of Thomas Pumphrey's long administration.

We should do injustice to those who preceded him at Ackworth School, if, by any means, we should appear to infer that progress and improvement were confined to the period of his administration. We have already noticed that most important step, taken with the full concurrence, and obtaining the hearty co-operation of Robert Whitaker, when, in 1816, arrangements were made for increased Scriptural instruction.

Though perhaps somewhat out of place, we must be allowed to introduce Thomas Pumphrey's own testimony to improvement, as it appeared to him, when visiting Ackworth School, at the time of the General Meeting, eight years after having left it, as school-boys say, "for good." With all the glow of a young man about him, and all the generous recollections of school-boy life,

he describes in a letter, the pleasures of this visit; tells of the several spots endeared by early recollections—visits the grave yard, breathes a sigh over the sod that covered the remains of a dearly beloved younger brother, and says he can scarcely feel mournful, believing in the blessedness of the immortal spirit of the deceased, He tells too, that he was forcibly struck by the great improvements visible every where; that the attention to convenience and comfort was remarkable, and that cleanliness was a prominent characteristic.

Thomas Pumphrey was associated with Joseph John Gurney in the examining Committee. Some of the boys, he says, read admirably. The knowledge of Scripture, he continues, surprised us all; scarcely in a single instance did they fail of answering correctly. They repeated several prophecies, &c. very correctly, and to crown all, their conduct was exceedingly becoming. Being invited to remain as Robert Whitaker's guest, after the business of the General Meeting was over, he joined Joseph John

Gurney in an examination of the Girls, in regard to their knowledge of Holy Scripture. "J. J. Gurney," he says, "began with the lowest class, and proceeded step by step to the highest. The knowledge which many of the children possessed of the contents of the sacred volume, was to me, truly astonishing, for in the first class they were scarcely ever at a loss to answer any question, either as to the historical, prophetical, or doctrinal parts, and were able to repeat a very large portion of the Scriptures by heart."

Whilst in the eyes and estimation of others, ably discharging the duties of his post, it may be instructive to those who have succeeded him, to know that he too had his discouragements. In Fourth Month, 1846, he wrote as follows: — "What a place of change is this! My responsibilities seem at times more than I am equal to sustain; and were it not that I have not yet seen it my place to retire, but still apprehend that I am in my right allotment, and thus receive a little inward support from season

to season, I believe my discouragements would at times overwhelm me." Nor less instructive is the following review of his course, written in the Eight Month, 1861:

"What an important period of my life it has been, and how fraught with solenm and instructive incidents! Though in the retrospect, there is much cause for humiliation, I am sustained by the firm conviction that we have been here in the ordering of our Heavenly Father, and that, notwithstanding many short-comings and mistakes, He has condescended to blot out the transgressions for His dear Son's sake, and to bless the service of feeding the lambs, and watching over the fold, in a degree which often contrites my spirit, and causes me to acknowledge 'it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in my eyes.' There was in the days of my early manhood, when looking towards coming to Ackworth, an amount of self-confidence for which I have often since been humbled and ashamed. It was but a result of ignorance, and inexperience, and youthful ardour, and strangely mingled with no small amount

of real faith and reliance on better strength and wisdom than my own. Not only is the wrath of man made to praise the Lord, but He bends even the *foolishness* of man, to His purposes; and I have sometimes thought if I had had an adequate perception of the arduous nature of the engagement I was entering upon, and how very little qualification I then possessed for it, I should never have presumed to enter. But we learn in the school of experience, and I hope I have, in the last quarter of a century, gathered a few useful lessons there. Gratitude and praise are my fittest employments in the remembrance of the Lord's mercies."

Within the last two or three years, occasional attacks of illness gave much concern to the family and friends of Thomas Pumphrey. The Committee of the school, anxious to retain his services, and hopeful that a period of relaxation, longer than usual, might be the means of a partial restoration, liberated him for about three months in the autumn of 1860. His health again giving way, he

tendered his resignation to the Committee in the Fourth month of 1861.

The Committee of the school, on receiving and accepting his letter, resigning his post, recorded in the following minute, their sense of the service he had rendered.

MINUTE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ACKWORTH SCHOOL, HELD THERE, FIFTH MONTH 1ST, 1861.

"The Committee, in receiving the tender of resignation conveyed in Thomas Pumphrey's letter, record their sense of sorrow that the health of our beloved friend should be such as to impress upon his mind the necessity of discontinuing his official connection with the school. In reviewing the long term of his administration, they can look upon it as a period of faithful, efficient and successful services; and whilst they sympathize with their friend in his estimate of the kind and hearty co-operation which he has received from the officers of the Institution; the Committee express their belief that his colleagues have been stimulated by his example and counsel to a diligent and conscientious discharge of

their duties. They also reverently and thankfully recognise the Divine blessing as having rested on their joint labours, without which they that build the house labour in vain. When the time of separation shall come, our dear friends, Thomas and Isabel Pumphrey, will carry with them the esteem and love of the Committee and Officers of the Institution, as well as the grateful recollections of very many children, who have been the objects of their christian care and love."

Early in the year 1862 he finally gave up his charge to his successor, George Satterthwaite. Thomas Pumphrey is thus described by one who was present at the last First-day evening Reading, at which he presided as Superintendent, "At the last of these meetings which he attended he bowed the knee, and, for the last time in his official capacity, prayed in the name of Jesus for the assembled family. Many on whom the burden of the work, would, in some way or other still continue to rest, felt their hearts afresh contrited, animated and warmed. Before the meeting closed, he

stood up, and in the fulness of christian love pronounced his parting benediction, 'It was hard for him to sever the last link which had, for so many years bound him to the Institution. The recollection of the trials he had passed through in its service, his conflicts of spirit, his hopes and his fears, his joys, his mercies, his rich blessings, all seemed combined in one intense feeling in his soul.' Concluding 'and now I bid you affectionately farewell in the Lord.'"

Many incidents of touching interest were associated with his retirement from office, manifesting the warm attachment of the officers of the Institution, of the children, and of many, who as parents and as children, had partaken of the benefits of his wise, christian administration. Amongst these tokens of regard was the munificent sum of upwards of £1000, presented to him a few weeks before his death, together with a collection of books, and several other articles of domestic utility or enjoyment. In a memorandum left by Thomas Pumphrey, he says, "I accept this kind present

as an answer to prayer. When I was a young man, my losses in business were great. On presenting my case before the Lord, and beseeching him to prevent me from bringing any dishonour on His truth, and to enable me to provide all things needful for my family; this was the reply which I have never doubted, and which, notwithstanding much shortcoming on my part, has been more than fulfilled: "Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Such was our dear friend's confidence in prayer in early life. Again with the prospect of withdrawal from office, and diminished means before him, a few months before his death, he told his family, that some time previously, when contemplating leaving the school, and feeling tried at the prospect of his limited income, owing to losses from investments, he recurred to the promise above referred to. He turned again to the psalm containing the promise, and read, "Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give thee the desire of thy heart." He was then encouraged once

more to present his cause before the Lord in prayer. He then read further, "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." So when he heard of the liberality of his friends, he remarked it did appear to be emphatically from the Lord, as a fulfilment of the promise "He shall bring it to pass."

In the spring of 1862, after his retirement from office, he spent some time with his family at Ilkley. A brief period of repose, a peaceful autumnal evening—the fruit ripe and ready to be gathered into the heavenly garner—was permitted him there. His family look back to it as a period of most sweet enjoyment. His health somewhat improved, left the impression that possibly a few weeks were added to his life, by the kind and judicious medical care provided for him, by the intense perception of relief from his long labour of love at Ackworth, and by the capacity for the enjoyment of the beauties of nature in her many coloured forms, as well as by the sweets of conjugal and filial love. Yet even here, one cloud hovered over his

dwelling, in the declining health of his eldest son; but this cloud was gilded by the hues of heaven. Father and son could both rejoice in their Saviour's love, both were prepared to bow to their Heavenly Father's dispensations, with "Thy will be done."

Soon after his arrival at Ilkley, a little Meeting House was opened by Friends for the accomodation of visitors. Here he was frequently impressively engaged in ministry and in vocal prayer. The sweetness and solemnity of these seasons will not soon be forgotten by those who were privileged to be there. On one occasion, when it was probable that no one would be present but the members of his own family, they were surprised on entering, to find ten or eleven persons already assembled, only one of whom was a Friend. Thomas Pumphrey on rising, expressed his satisfaction at seeing so many gathered together, and that it had been a subject of prayer with him that morning, that they might not meet alone. He then engaged in a long and weighty address, and afterwards in prayer. Twice on a First-day

evening, in company with his wife, he visited the large hospital recently established. He entered into sympathy with various patients, gave them tracts, and read to them. In reply to a request that he would pray, he explained the Scriptural views of prayer which he held, and after a pause was enabled to engage in that exercise.

One of the Cottages at the bottom of the school garden, occupied at various times by Ackworth Masters, was the chosen residence of Thomas Pumphrey on his retirement from office. It had been prepared for him whilst he was residing at Ilkley, from which place he removed to his new abode. On arriving there he was in feeble health, and the week before the General Meeting, very unwell. On its near approach he improved rapidly and was able to attend the meetings for worship.

On Sixth-day morning, immediately following the General Meeting, a conference of Friends* was held, to consider the subject of Scripture-reading meetings, lectures and

* See The Friend for 8th month, 1862, page 78.

other similar means of religious edification. At an early stage of the proceedings, Thomas Pumphrey addressed the meeting. The following is the substance of his address, as prepared by himself, at the request of a friend.

He expressed his warm sympathy with the object of the meeting, and his general approval of the means of religious edification which had been referred to.

It had afforded him great comfort to notice the abundant evidences, among his younger friends, of lively concern for their own soul's welfare, and for the prosperity of our own religious Society. He earnestly desired that it might be cordially sympathised with, and responded to by their elder and more experienced brethren. It was quite probable that in the fervour of youthful earnestness, zeal might not always be sufficiently tempered with wisdom; but he would rather see a little excess in that direction, than the prevalence of that state of spiritual torpor and stagnation, which was not far removed from spiritual death.

The remedy for that which might otherwise run into excess or unadvised action, was not for our older friends to stand aloof, and merely to lament over unhallowed activity or misdirected zeal, or for them to seek to put it down by a word of authority; but for them to unite with their younger friends in their meetings and classes, seeking to infuse by a kindly genial influence, their own maturer wisdom and to help by their enlarged experience. From his intercourse with his younger brethren and sisters, he was prepared to testify to the loving spirit, in which the suggestions and cautions of their elders were received; and he felt sure that such an intercourse as he recommended, would be useful alike to old and young.

The tendency of *age* was to err on the side of prudence; to be extremely cautious, slow to move, and sometimes not to move at all, because of the dangers and difficulties which are apprehended. *Youth* on the other hand was all ardour: had not travelled through the experience of age; did not know, and could but very indistinctly perceive, the

dangers and difficulties which had to be encountered. But let them commingle. The earnestness and fervour of youth would stimulate age to action; whilst the experience and wisdom and prudence of age, would act on the dangerous speed of youth, like a break on the wheels of a railway train.

In conclusion he was especially desirous that in all their proceedings, and particularly in those in which our elder Friends took a prominent part, nothing should be said or done which should give needless pain or uneasiness to those who might not be able to see altogether with us; and that these on their part, might be very tender of judging either actions or motives: for he believed we were often much nearer to one another in sentiment and opinion than, from the imperfection of words, and the infirmities and variety of our mental temperaments, we appeared to each other to be. As he would be obliged to leave the meeting shortly on account of his health, he had thus early

addressed his friends, lest his silence or his withdrawal should have been misconstrued.

In the delivery of this address, his voice was somewhat feeble, denoting declining health; but the affectionate earnestness of his manner, will not be readily forgotten by those who heard him. The solemn hush of the assembly, marked the deep impression made by this, one of his last public addresses to his friends.

Soon after the General Meeting, he paid a visit to his invalid son, and his other relatives at Newcastle. His aged father-in-law, George Richardson, brightened remarkably on seeing him, and conversed as he had not done for months. His visit of nearly a week was a time of much enjoyment to himself, his family and friends. The heavenly sweetness which clothed his spirit, the cheerful and instructive character of his conversation, and the authority which accompanied his ministerial communications, have left an impression which will not soon be effaced. Much of his time was spent in the sick room of his son, the thought of separation

from whom was painful to the affectionate parent. Little did he appear to apprehend, and little did they who were the objects of his tender love apprehend, that the son was to survive his father for a little while, and to bear the pain of severance, and that the father and child were so soon to partake together of that fulness of joy in store for them, in the presence of their Saviour. On returning to his cottage home he was permitted a few days of great enjoyment. His garden and all his surroundings were to him sources of tranquil pleasure and lively gratitude; no earthly wish seemed unfulfilled.

On First-day, the 27th of Seventh month, he was indisposed, but cheerful, and able to attend both meetings. In the morning meeting, he rose with these words: "I make no high profession, and therefore not much is expected of me." He said it was with much hesitation that he ventured to repeat these words, but he could find no peace in withholding them. He continued, "Who is it that does not expect much? It is not God,—for he says, 'My son, give me thy

heart.' It is not our Saviour,—for he says, unless we give up all, we cannot be his disciples. Then it is our fellow-men who do not expect much, and we are among the number of those who, comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." Pointing to these and to other delusions, he enforced the self-denying character of the religion of Jesus, concluding with an animating description of the joys resulting from an entire surrender to the service of Christ. In the evening meeting, parents and children were the objects of his address; for though the school was dispersed, many children were present.

In this his last meeting, he added one more testimony to the deep exercises of his spirit on behalf of these two classes, for whose spiritual welfare he had long and diligently laboured. Before the meeting closed, he knelt down in prayer; confessing weariness, but petitioning rather than to be withdrawn from labour, to be girded with strength for it to the end. His successor, the children and parents present, the absent

scholars, young and buoyant, exposed to new temptations in this time of recreation—for these and for all present, this his last public prayer ascended, that they might all meet before the throne. One who was there says, "Such a savour of heavenly love attended this prayer, that the thought occurred to me more than once afterward, though I put it from me, is it possible that our beloved friend is about to be taken from us, and that we have heard his voice for the last time." And so it was! On Second-day, the 28th, the uneasiness complained of the preceding day, considerably increased.

On the morning of the 29th, a spasmodic attack, similar to those to which he had long been subject, occurred, and for a time caused great agony. He obtained some relief by the usual remedies, but towards night became much worse. His medical attendant wished for further advice; to this he readily assented. A physician from Pontefract, an old friend of Thomas Pumphrey's, was sent for, but was prevented from attending till Fourth-day morning. He at once took a

grave view of the case, and held out little expectation of recovery. Previous to this interview, his daughter read to him the fourteenth chapter of John. At the close he said, "It is evident the doctor thinks it very doubtful whether I can get over this attack, but I am free from all anxiety. I can reverently say, 'to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.' I can appropriate the exhortation of our Saviour, 'Let not your heart be troubled, in my Father's house are many mansions.'" In reply to a remark on the peace which he had appeared for some time past to enjoy, he replied, "More than peaceful—JOYFUL." Early on Fifth-day morning he asked his daughter to repeat the hymn beginning—

"One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er;
I am nearer home to-day
Than I ever have been before."

When the verse beginning "Jesus, perfect my trust" was repeated, he said "Say that again," and he began the last verse himself.

"Feel thee near when my feet
Are slipping over the brink."

He said that a few months ago these verses were much in his thoughts, as was Cowper's hymn :—

> "To Jesus, the crown of my hope,
> My soul is in haste to be gone!"

On Fifth-day morning, when the doctors came together, he requested his wife and daughter to leave the room. On the former re-entering he said, "I have heavy tidings for thee, my dear, the doctors say it is only a question of hours." On the remark, "It is not heavy tidings to thee," he replied "I feel it solemn—very solemn!" His wife said "I hope we shall meet again," he replied, "Yes, trusting in Jesus' blood—press on and we shall." To his friend, the physician, he spoke of the glorious hope of the Christian believer. To his friend and successor, George Satterthwaite, he said, "I know in whom I have believed, and I am able to feel that he can keep that which I have committed to him. I have been long living on the confines of the eternal world, and I have never experienced the joys of religion so much as during the last

few months. In social life, in business, in recreation, throughout all, I have felt my Saviour's presence in a way I never before witnessed." In another brief interview, he said, "The Lord has been gracious to me and full of love, He has covered all my sins, and my manifold transgressions, and washed them all away for my Saviour's sake." Inquiring of Dr. Oxley if his faculties would be clear to the end, his friendly physician replied. "Yes, they will almost survive the body." And such was remarkably the case. On the doctor observing that the pulse was almost gone, he felt it himself, and said, "It is indeed; I can scarcely feel it." After an interval of oppressed breathing, he said, "The lamp is loath to go out; I thought I was gone." Again he opened his eyes and said, "Oh, the pain, the bliss of dying." At another time, with a look of inexpressible sweetness, he remarked "Gently descending." In one more interval of easier breathing, in answer to the suggestion "nearing the haven," he replied "very near."

Shortly after this, about a quarter-past twelve, the redeemed and purified spirit passed away to its heavenly inheritance.

Permitted thus, as it were, to accompany their beloved one up to the very gate of the celestial city, a holy calm, an interval of deep feeling, overspread the little company of mourners, and the bereaved wife was enabled to utter the language, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

On Third-day, the 5th of the 8th month, several members of the Committee, and other Friends, such officers of the dispersed household as were able to attend, and many attached relatives and neighbours, accompanied the remains of our beloved friend, to the little burial ground, whither he himself had often followed the remains of many of the lambs of Christ's fold, whom he had loved, over whom he had tenderly watched, and for whom and with whom he had often prayed.

In concluding this sketch of the life and labours of our late Friend, and of his peace-

ful and joyful close, we desire that the grace of our God, by which he was what he was, should alone be exalted; and that our readers, as well as ourselves, should be stimulated to pursue with renewed earnestness and alacrity our heavenward journey.

For our encouragement we may remember the words of the great Apostle when the time of his departure was at hand: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

APPENDIX.

We have mentioned that Thomas Pumphrey occasionally indulged in versification. We insert a few of these compositions. They were penned chiefly in times of convalescence from indisposition; and if not possessed of high poetic merit, they will, we believe, please some of our readers. They are not devoid of sweetness and beauty of thought and expression, and to Ackworth scholars, some of the local references will not be without the charm of retrospective youthful associations.

On the Decease of Anna G. Backhouse, who died on board the "Bull Dog" war steamer, in the bay of Palermo, during the bombardment of the city by the Sicilians, who had risen against the Neapolitan Government.

From fair Sicilia's fertile isle,
Where summer breathes her balmiest breath,
On whose majestic, lava'd pile
Where desolation reigned erewhile,
Vineyards and orange gardens smile,
I heard the voice of death.

'Twas not in awful Sylla's roar,
Nor from Charybdis' fabled cave,

From whence her maddened waters pour
With thunders echoing to the shore
Whose horrid vortex seemed of yore
A yawning, liquid grave.

Though Etna from her snow-capped throne,
With arrowy tongues of lurid flame,
Uttered a deep, internal groan
Portentous, and of threat'ning tone,
Yet did not that resounding moan,
The opening tomb proclaim.

'Twas not the battle's booming knell
That told the tale of parted life,
Though on Palermo's bulwarks fell
The cannon's charge, the exploding shell,
And round her ramparts rolled the yell
Of struggling freedom's strife.

Not these,—but from their midst was stirred
Like breath of Zephyr on mine ear,
A whispering voice, as once the word
By Israel's ancient seer was heard,
When earth, and wind, and fire concurred
To tell not, God was near.

It called me to Palermo's bay,
Where anchored on the heaving brine,
A noble ship I saw display
Her serried sides in stern array,
Whose name repulsive, seemed to say,
"Nor peace, nor love is mine."

Yet on that deck in death's embrace,
A youthful mother calmly lay,
The parting smile was on her face,
And peace, and love, and placid grace;
And there, in that unfitting place,
Her spirit passed away.

And, hanging on his nurse's neck,
There too, the blithe, unconscious boy;
His loss how little did he reck,
As sportive on the spacious deck,
Not e'en his father's grief could check
His artless, baby joy.

For bathed in sorrow, *he* was there,
Whose heart to her's in love was bound,
Alone he watched that form so fair;
His dearest joy, his sweetest care;
But none his agony could share,
His depths of anguish sound.

Had sympathy then ceased to flow?
Or were the hearts around him steel'd?
No: all that courtesy could show,
And all that kindness could bestow
To soothe the stricken stranger's woe,
Did that stern vessel yield.

Yet sad that thus thy course should end,
With war's terrific thunder nigh;

A battle-ship its shelter lend,
Warriors thy dying couch befriend,
Mourners unknown thy bier attend:
'Twas "a strange place to die."

Oh! how unlike the funeral throng,
Which mourn'd thy honoured parent dead;
A weeping city moved along,
And preacher's voice, and poets song,
And orator's mellifluous tongue,
The lamentation spread.

Thy gentle birth,—could it not plead?
Thy wealth,—which lux'ry might supply?
Had youth no power to intercede?
Thy loveliness?—thy peaceful creed,
For tranquil scenes in death's sad need,
With all thy loved ones by?

But did no heavenly beam appear
Athwart the darkling path thou trod?
Was not the Saviour's spirit near
To strengthen, comfort, sweeten, cheer,
Dispel each doubt, each anxious fear,
And fix thy hope on God?

Oh yes! the Christian's faith was thine;
Emanuel's power was felt to save;
Thou leaned upon His arm divine,
Didst on His faithful breast recline,
To Him thy soul in peace resign,
And triumph o'er the grave.

Thus on the billow's foamy crest,
When raging storms perplex the deep,
The fabled halcyon builds her nest,
And midst the tempest sinks to rest:
So thou, upon thy Saviour's breast,
Like Stephen, "fell asleep."

Mourner! should thy footsteps tread,
Beneath these clear Sicilian skies,
May'st thou by sympathy be led,
To seek amidst Palermo's dead,
The narrow, solitary bed,
Where Gurney's daughter lies;—

Then mourn not that the mouldering dust,
Beneath a foreign turf may lie;
Since this, the holy, reverent trust,
That, safe, where every storm is hushed,
The spirit's numbered with the just,
Whose record is on high.

Since these lines were written, A. B.'s remains have been removed to Leghorn, which renders the last verse but one inappropriate.

ACKWORTH.

Written in an Album of George Pollard, a school boy, about to emigrate to Canada, 2nd mo. 12, 1848.

I sail o'er the sea a lone emigrant boy,
And leave this loved spot of my childhood's delight;
But Ackworth will still be remembered with joy,
When far from my footsteps and hid from my sight.

Though my home in the west may be humble and poor,
And girt with dark forests, primeval and vast;
In the archives of mind is my title secure,
To a heritage rich in the scenes of the past.

And oft shall I traverse this ample domain,
In the cool of the day when my labour is o'er,
Nor ocean, nor land shall my ardour restrain,
Whilst I roam in its fields, its recesses explore.

Or a picture I'll paint which with Wilkie might vie,
So faithful its portraits, so graphic and true,
The past shall be present, the distant be nigh,
As my school days are brought into rapid review.

My canvass I'll strain on the easel of thought,
And memory my pencil shall willingly guide;
With motion and life shall the landscape be fraught,
And in rich tints of truth shall each object be dyed.

Now sketch out the building;—the centre stands forth
In noble relief like a palace for kings;
Or as Zion of old in the sides of the north,
Spreading eastward and westward its sheltering "Wings."

There the play-grounds expand; both the gravel and green,
Active boys and fair damsels;—their garden and "grove,"
No fence intervening, the pathway between,
Which divides yet unites them, a pavement of love.

Now visit the schoolrooms,—each student pourtray,
The idle and careless,—the lover of lore,
In their features the minds busy working display,
As intently o'er Murray or Melrose they pore.

There's my desk, my own desk, in the school "number ten,"
The black painted tables, the stool and the chair,

The clock and the cupboard, I see them again,
My class-mates and teacher, as though I were there.

That neat little garden in beauty unchanged,
Its flowers and its fragrance they still are my own,
In yon spacious piazza, where boxes are ranged,
I stand at collect as in days that are flown.

Again I sit down at the table of deal,
In the place where the ample refection is spread,
With appetite keen to enjoy my plain meal,
My bowl of rich milk, and my wholesome brown bread.

But whence this emotion, this tendering thrill,
As in lengthened procession the children appear,
All clothed in their best and impressively still,
And in order ascending, tier rising o'er tier?

'Tis the Sabbath day evening, when manhood and youth,
Tutor, pupil, and servant together repair,
And solemnly read are the Scriptures of truth,
And counsel's imparted, or offered is prayer.

Sweet seasons! when He whose good Spirit benign,
As the wind where it listeth, His influence pours
On the minds e'en of children, hath visited mine,
And seals the remembrance on Canada's shores.

'Tis over, in silence I seek my repose
In the chamber, the bed, where I slept when a boy,
How sweet is the sleep which his weariness knows,
Who dreams but of pastimes, and wakes but to joy!

Thus I slumber in Britain my own native isle,
In the school of my childhood the dearest and best,
Yet it is but a day-dream that pleases awhile,
For thy winds Hochelaga * must lull me to rest.

* The Indian name for Canada.

The Atlantic divides us, but can it estrange
The heart of affection that turns to you still?
No, my love for my kindred and friends cannot change,
Or the colds of a Canada winter e'er chill!

EVENING.

When the Regent of day from his height has descended,
And left us to waken a slumbering world;
When the light with the darkness serenely is blended,
And richly with dew drops each blade is impearled;—

When Silence resumes his nocturnal dominion,
And naught but the lute of the shepherd is heard;
When wearied with song, with its head 'neath its pinion,
Enwrapt in soft slumber, is each tuneful bird;—

How sweet to the soul to indulge contemplation,
To wander abroad in the evening's still hour;
Delighted to dwell on the works of creation,
And then raise its thoughts to that increate Power

Whose fiat from chaos spoke all things to being,
From things that were not, formed this wonderful ball;
Obedient at once to Almighty decreeing,
God said "Be there light!" and light radiates all.

The stars which through darkness pour streamlets of glory,
The moon that benignantly beams in the sky,
Spring forth;—how sublime is the scriptural story,—
Spring forth at his word, in their orbits on high.

Nor less is the power, that through ages successive,
Sustaineth these globes in the ether of space,
Which say as they roll in their courses progressive,
"The finger of God in his workmanship trace."

But cease!—for solemnity all things pervadeth,
And language would fail to express its sweet thrill;
The visible world from my vision fast fadeth,
And Nature is awful, impressive and still.

Nor will I disturb the repose that is given
In mercy to mortals—but muse with delight
In silence profound, whilst the earth and the heaven
And all things are clad in the garment of night.

THE PENITENT'S TEAR.

There's a jewel more precious by far in its worth
More brilliantly bright and more beauteously fair,
Than the pearl which adorneth the monarchs of earth,
Or resplendently shines in a princess's hair.

Oh! *where* is the gem which Golconda outvies,—
This jewel so costly,—Oh! where does it shine?
Shall we seek in the depths of the sea for the prize?
Or say,—is it hid in the Mexican mine?

Nor the mine, nor the depths of the ocean enfold
This jewel so precious, so passingly dear,
Nor yet can its value be counted with gold;
But it gleams in the drop of the Penitent's Tear.

When the sin-stricken soul, in abasedness lies
At the footstool of mercy with trembling and fear,
The Saviour will not this pure offering despise,
And the angels rejoice o'er the PENITENT'S TEAR.

TO THE CHILDREN

On his 59th and final Birth-day at Ackworth School, 6th mo. 10, 1861.

For five and twenty years and more
You're wont on this returning day,
To greet me with your gardens' store,
Or with congratulating lay.

But better far than outward show;
Your conduct year by year improving,
Gives your bouquets a brighter glow,
And scents them with your heart's true loving.

Brilliant and sweet indeed your flowers,
Though soon to fade and pass away;
But love, pure love, (may such be ours),
Can never fail or know decay.

But how shall I in fitting guise,
Thank you for this your welcome boon?
Perchance young friends, you'll not despise
A *holiday* this afternoon.

You know my dears I am not wont
Favour for favour to dispense;
'Twould be indeed a sore affront,
To make your love e'en *seem* pretence.

But this may claim exception clear,
My high prerogative to strain;
Since this my final birth-day here,
The error can't occur again.

Time was before my locks were grey,
I join'd your sports with active limb;
And no boy more enjoyed his play,
Than I in giving joy to him.

Time *was*,—for sober fifty-nine,
Reminds me strength and vigour fail,—
When I in cricket-match would shine,
Or fearless join at "prisoners' gaol."

But now, dear girls, not e'en with *you*,
In active games, though far less rough,
Dare I engage,—but must eschew,
Tirza and Tig, and Blind man's buff.

Full six-and-twenty years have swept,
(Your parents in those days were young),
Since first my festival was kept,
Thus by a loving Ackworth throng.

Thousands of children since that day,
Beneath our fostering care have pass'd,—
Have come and gone;—but where are they?
And now you celebrate the *last*.

For soon this anxious load of care
Must on another's shoulders rest,
Let *him* your love and duty share,
And may you be together blest.

And Oh! may He who reigns above,
(It is my earnest reverent prayer),
Vouchsafe to each his pardoning love,
And keep you with a Saviour's care.

How happy those, how blest, how safe,
Who 'neath the Almighty's shadow dwell,
Though sorrow cloud, and care may chafe,
These *will*, these ever *must*—FAREWELL.

ERRATA.

Page 36. Sixth line from the top, FOR 1834 READ 1831.

Page 222. Six lines from the commencement of the chapter, FOR 1858 READ 1851.

Thomas Brady, Printer, 15 Low Ousegate, York.